

Churches
Maple Ave
Meth.



HANDS ACROSS THE BORDER — The United Methodist Women of Maple Avenue Church, working with DePauw University's student volunteer program, will help to make a new church a reality for worshippers in Honduras. Mrs. Betty Hoffman, left, president of the local women's group, and DePauw student Marilyn Moore, Arlington Heights, Ill., display a sign to be displayed at the new building. The student volunteers will take the sign with them when they leave for Honduras in January.

Local Methodist Women Aid Honduran Church

DEC 14 1978

The United Methodist Women of Maple Avenue Church have contributed \$750 which will be used to construct a church at Chochahuela, Honduras.

The monetary contribution will provide supplies to be used by DePauw University student volunteers during DePauw's winter term project month in January. Students from the Greencastle university will do the actual construction.

Serving as project officers for the student workers will be Marilyn Moore, Arlington Heights, Ill., a senior pre-engineering student at DePauw.

The DePauw student volunteer program is one of the largest in the nation and has been called "DePauw's Peace Corps." Miss

Moore was in Terre Haute recently to receive the funds for the project and to deliver a plaque, the gift of the students to the Central American nation's congregation.

The presentation was made to Mrs. Betty Hoffman, president of the United Methodist Women's group at the local church, and the Rev. Keith Carlisle, pastor of Maple Avenue United Methodist Church. The plaque will go with the students to Honduras to be displayed at the completed building.

The sign is in Spanish, but is translated to read, "In order to affirm the brotherhood among the faithful, this building was contributed by the women of the Maple Avenue Methodist Church, Terre Haute, Indiana, United States."

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Community Affairs File

Vigo County Public Library

Churches (T.H.)
Maple Ave. UMs Seek
Change In Mid-Rise
Housing Project Plans

By GLADYS SELTZER

Star Staff Writer

Representatives of the Maple Avenue United Methodist Church, 1203 Maple Ave., are seeking modification of the parking plans for the proposed new mid-rise housing project adjacent to Garfield Towers at Twelfth Street and Maple Avenue.

A letter about the problem was sent Aug. 2 to the regional office of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in Chicago and Indianapolis and to U.S. Congressman John Myers (R 7th Dist.) and was signed by The Rev. J. Stanley Howell, pastor of the church, and several members of the congregation, including Dr. Byron Price, chairman of the trustees.

Dr. Price said Wednesday that with the construction of the additional housing, church members were concerned about parking and traffic congestion under the present plans, and that the new housing will add 50 per cent more automobiles in the area where there is already much congestion. The churchgoers now park on the streets where permissible.

The church had hoped, therefore, to purchase land on the housing site for off-street parking but were unable to do so, although the church had obtained in excess of \$22,000 in cash and commitments toward the purchase, Dr. Price said.

According to the letter to HUD, representatives of the church met with Kirby Smith, executive director of the City Housing Authority, who had the proposed plans which showed parking at the rear of the addition which is more than a block away from the congested corner.

Smith was quoted in the letter as stating that the plans were flexible.

Representatives of the church met two days later, on July 9, with the planning group and "found a very rigid attitude opposing any modifications requested by the church," the letter stated.

Dr. Price also said Wednesday that "we certainly don't object to Garfield Towers which is serving its purpose" and that the addition is a "nice project and a nice thing to have in the area."

"All we ask is that they put the parking for the new construction on the northeast corner of Twelfth and Maple Streets," he continued. "This would allow the church to use the former Garfield High School site for their parking and relieve congestion."

The church "would be willing to purchase an appropriate area or would hope the plans could be so modified that parking would be available for churchgoers on Sunday on the northeast corner of Twelfth and Maple Streets," according to Dr. Price.

Smith said Wednesday that the local development team is considering the church's request and trying to accommodate them if at all possible, and that "some proposals for modifications to the plans" are "under study" in an effort to accommodate their parking needs.

Smith said he had talked with Dr. Price about the matter on Aug. 2.

The letter to HUD noted that the church's physical assets are in excess of \$600,000, of which \$450,000 has been expended in the past eight years, which expenditure has "upgraded the neighborhood" of the church, although the neighborhood "is an old but not blighted area." The church has been in its present location for 30 years.

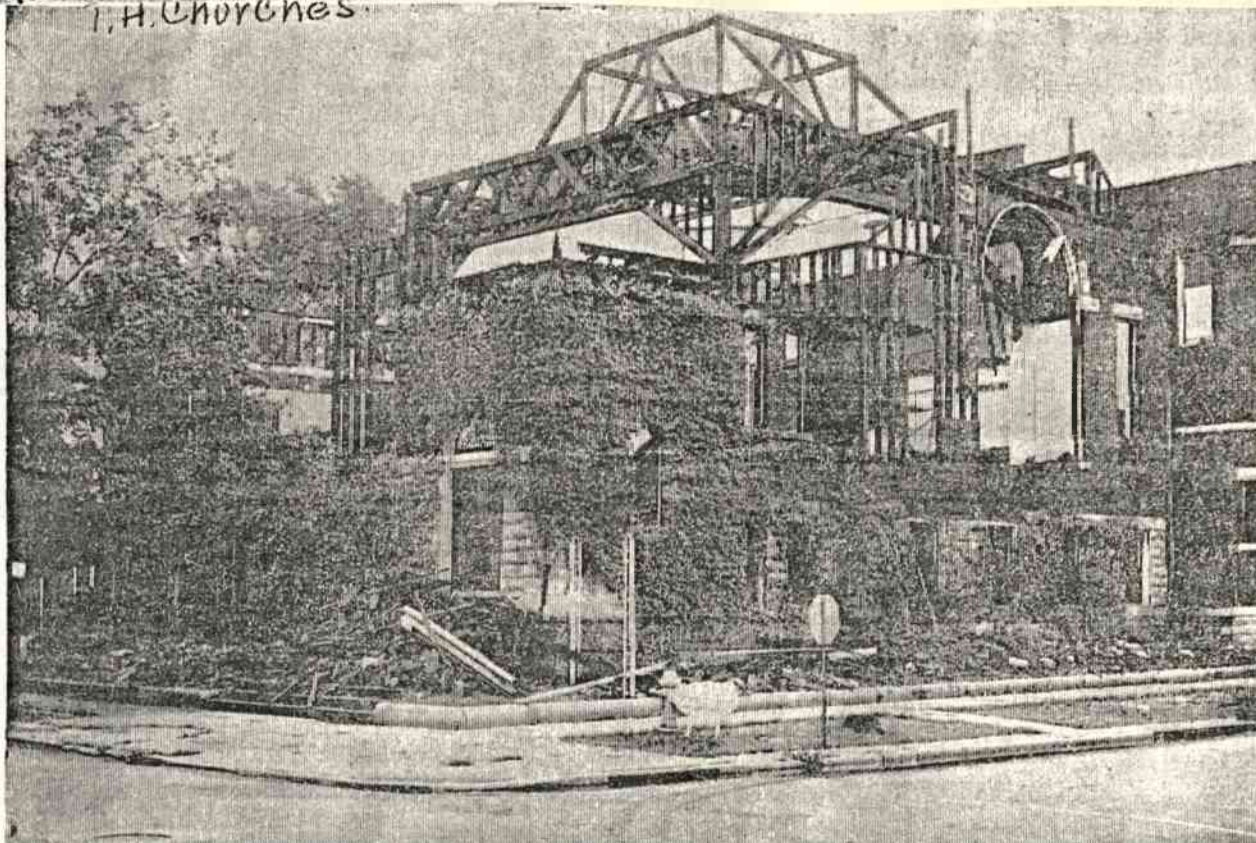
Churches w/
Maple Ave.
Meth.

Community Affairs File

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I. H. Churches



A LANDMARK TUMBLES — Maple Avenue Methodist Church, one of the older churches of Terre Haute, built in 1900, is being torn down. The structure will be replaced by a new ultra-modern edifice.

Photo by Martin.

T.H. Tribune, 8-23-67

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TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

Community Affairs File

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Maple Ave. Methodists Open New Church

T.H. Churches

T.H. Trib. 10/19/68.

Churches (WV)
Maple Ave U.M.

First worship services in the new Maple Avenue United Methodist Church, Maple Ave. and 13th St., will be conducted at 9:30 and 11:10 a.m. Sunday.

Reverend Chester A. Mahan will bring the message at both services, assisted by Reverend Edward Schachterle. Guest organist is Mary Frances Smith of Riddick Organ Company, Indianapolis. Her Prelude is "Suite Gothique" by Boellman and the Postlude is "Taccato in F" by Handel.

The choir of 40 voices, under the direction of Mrs. Byron Blair, will open the service with a Call to Worship, written by the Reverend Barton Fletcher, a United Methodist minister. They will sing two anthems. The anthem, "Surely The Lord Is In This Place" by Moyer, was written for the dedication of the Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C., and is very appropriate for the first Sunday in a new sanctuary. The offertory anthem, "Holy Lord of All" (Welsh Chorale) is a concert version by Frances Williams.

Worship in the new sanctuary of contemporary design will center around a free-standing

communion table. Central to the worship setting will be communion as symbolized by the table, the Word as symbolized by the Bible and pulpit, the baptism at the baptismal font; all of these beneath the Cross of Christ. The architecture has attempted to remain functional as well as theological and to show on the outside the shape of the movement and action inside.

Honesty and integrity were basic considerations in design. The cross standing outside is in keeping with the same theme. The Cross is made of special steel which will, in time, form its own permanent bronze finish through a process of oxidation.

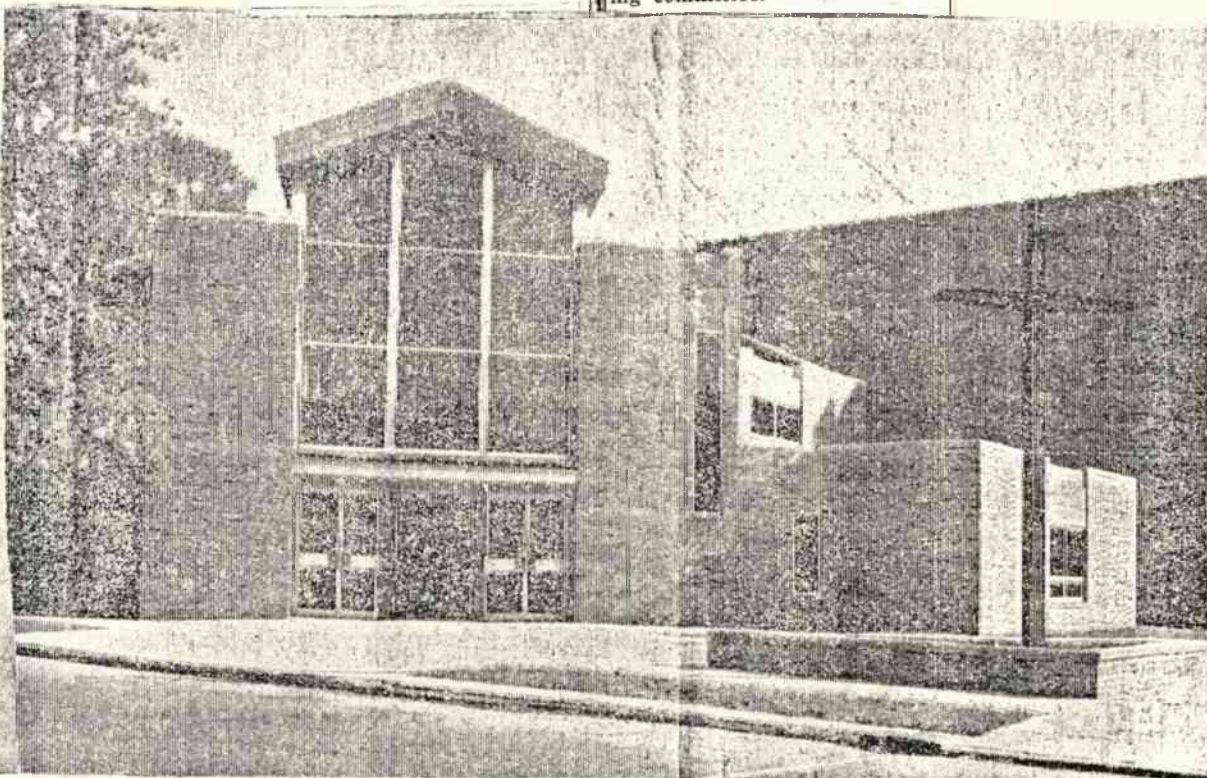
The sanctuary will seat more than 400 worshipers, including the facilities in the balcony, and is completely conditioned for year round comfort of the worshipers.

Construction was by Shelton Hannig. Construction consultants, Inc., Terre Haute and design by Harold E. Wagoner, A.I.A., and Associates of Philadelphia. Dr. Paul E. Humphrey is chairman of the church building committee.

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Community Affairs File



FIRST SERVICE—Sunday marks the day for the first service in the new Maple Ave. Methodist Church at 12th St. and Maple Ave. The new edifice cost approximately \$400,000 and the sanctuary will seat approximately 400 people. Formal dedication ceremonies are planned for sometime near Thanksgiving. Martin Photo.

(over)

Maple Avenue Methodist to Open Program

The congregation of the Maple Avenue Methodist Church in about four weeks will begin a \$90,000 remodeling program on their education facilities in the first phase of a long range building and remodeling program expected to cost in excess of a quarter of a million dollars. The church is located at 1203 Maple avenue.

The proposed planning is to be accomplished over the next six years and will include the razing of the present sanctuary and the construction of a new one for which the completed plans have not yet been finalized.

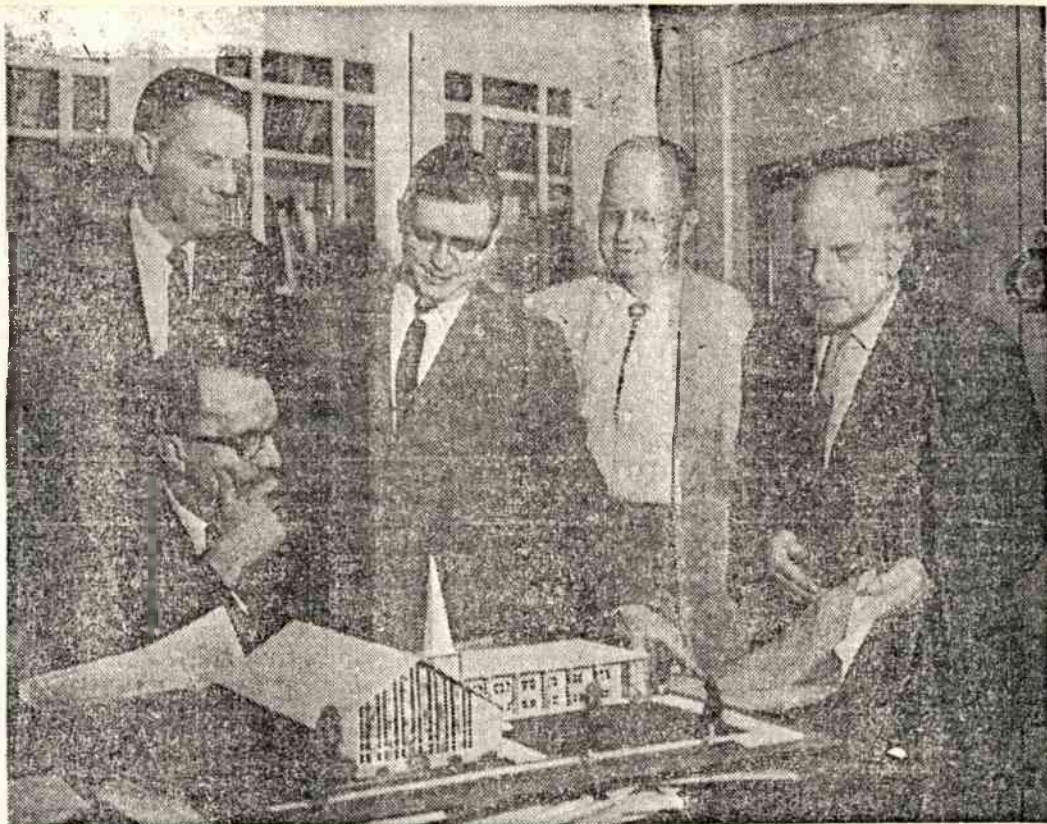
Remodeling of the first and second floors of the present educational building, tuck-pointing of the exterior brick wall to the west and purchases of adjacent properties for future expansion are contained in the first phase program.

Plan Other Facilities.

Next, the church will turn its attention to the sanctuary construction and such related facilities as a new fellowship hall, prayer chapel, church offices, choir room and similar areas.

Phase three will involve the removal of the present sanctuary and exterior treatment of the remodeled facilities remaining from the first phase work and exposed by the old sanctuary removal. The grounds will also be landscaped under program three.

The final phase will deal with the addition of sizable parking facilities around the entire church facilities, making adequate a limited parking area that



NEW MAPLE AVENUE METHODIST CHURCH model and plans were studied Thursday by members of the building committee as they announced construction to begin within four weeks on a \$90,000 remodeling of the educational facilities in the first phase of the over-all building, remodeling and expansion program expected to cost more than \$250,000. Pictured with the church pastor, the Rev. Chester Mahan, seated, are committee members Louis Yoho, Jerry Trimble, Gilbert Cluder and Roy LaFollette. Absent member, Wade Dixon. Photo by Martin.

will appear in the Phase Two construction.

Ten-Year Program.

The 10-year development program was begun in 1956 under the ministry of the Rev. R. Richmond Blake and associate pastor, the Rev. Louis Haskell. The Rev. Chester Mahan was appointed to the church pastorate this past June.

Members of the building committee for the first phase program are Roy LaFollette, chairman; Jerry Trimble, who constructed the model; Lewis Yoho, Gilbert Cluder and Wade Dixon.

Other laymen figuring on the various committees are as follows:

Plans and construction sub-committee to the expansion committee: Lewis Pelkey, chairman; LaFollette, Miss Mary R. McBeth and Yoho.

Finance and promotion: Art Freudenberg, chairman; Philip Coldwell, Thomas Cundiff, Arch Dunbar, Mrs. Clara Dischinger, Mrs. Mildred Reynolds, Philip Templeton, John Thompson and Dr. Fred McCrea. Mrs. Anita Ward has also been a member.

Worship and arts: F. Gail Browning, chairman; Mrs. John Council, Mrs. Marjorie Loving, Mrs. Alma Mahan and Ralph Ross.

Rooms and equipment: Lay leader Henry Fick, chairman; James Kline, Mrs. Doris Pelkey and Mrs. Mary Trimble.

Fellowship and recreation: Walter Cook and Mrs. Mildred Andrews, Dale Hudson and Dr. L. E. Malone being former members.

Kitchen expansion: Mrs. Warren Brewer, chairman; Mrs. Clarence Mahan, Mrs. Milton Stoker, Mrs. Trimble and president of the women's societies.

Will Dedicate T.H. Churches New Methodist T.H. Star 11/6/65 Parsonage

The new Maple Avenue Methodist Church parsonage will be dedicated by the church congregation during a service of consecration at 2 p.m. Sunday. The Rev. Dr. Ralph S. Steele, superintendent of the Terre Haute District, Northwest Conference, Indiana Area of the Methodist Church, will conduct the service.

Following the dedication service, the Rev. Chester Mahan, current pastor of the church, his wife, Dorothy, and their children will welcome parishioners to an open house celebration

from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Members of the congregation will assist in the open house, conducting tours through the new residence at 3041 N. 7th St.

Made of brick, the new structure includes four bedrooms, two baths, family room, formal living and dining areas, utility room and two-car garage. The parsonage was built under a general contract let to Contemporary Development, Inc.

Leading the parsonage building responsible for the completion of the project were chairman Dean Goings, Arch Dunbar, Dr. Paul Humphrey and Mrs. Fred McCrea.

Assisting them were members of the standing parsonage committee, Mrs. Fred McCrea, chairman; Mrs. Donald Fread; Mrs. William George; Mrs. Orville Sargent; Mrs. John Showalter, and the Rev. Mr. Mahan. Dr. John Showalter served as lay leader and Dr. Fred McCrea board chairman.

Over 200 Attend 50th Anniversary Of Maple Ave. Methodist Breakfast

5/7/50

Tiny girls in colorful May costumes who danced around the Maypole and women who were young 50 years ago vied for top honors at the Golden Anniversary May Breakfast served at the Maple Avenue Methodist church Thursday morning. And both groups like more than 200 other persons who attended the breakfast termed the Golden anniversary a great success.

Beginning at 6 o'clock the Women's Society of Christian Service members served a breakfast the menu for which included hot biscuits, bacon, eggs, fruit juice, coffee and jelly.

While the guests were eating breakfast a program, numbers of which were a May Festival and Maypole Dance, were given. These guests were seated at long tables centered by Golden Maypoles with pastel colored figurines for dancers. The table for the guest of honor was centered with a Maypole on each side of which were potted violet plants. Down the center of this table were trailing honeysuckle vines. At each place was a corsage of pansies for each guest.

Cages with love birds were placed around the room.

May Queen.

The May Queen, who wore a dress of golden satin and a crown of flowers, was Ginny Lou Annakin. She waved her wand and brought forth as her flowers little girls dressed in delicate colored May costumes. They all were grouped around the queen's dais to watch the Maypole dance.

The directors of the May Queen festival and the Maypole dance once took part in both features which are traditional parts of the program of each May Breakfast at the church.

Little girls in the May Festival which was directed by Mrs. Dewey Annakin were: Ginny Lou Annakin as the queen and Jaydine Counts, Ellen Nolte, Kathie Hansel, Sally Compton, Leslie Woolford, Barbara Schomer, Barbara Perkins, Cathy Smock, Virginia Mitchell, Mollie Alkire, Linda Donnelly and Ronda McGlossom as flowers.

The little dancers in the Maypole dance directed by Mrs. Lee Davis were Barbara Deagan, Carol Nattkemper, Suzanne La Follette, Joyce Ann Pridemore, Susan Ann Schomer, Carol Fisk, Barbara Ann Allen, Elsie McGlosson, Janet Swander, Ann Swander, Altra Javins, Mary Lou Allen, Caroline Lee, Kathryn Gerry, Dorothy Manser, Karsh Hansel, Dorothy Jo-

honnott, Mary Jane Davis, Jeanne Waltman and Georgeann Jenkins.

Preparations for the breakfast which was supervised by Mrs. Dennis Byerly, Mrs. Donald Fischer and served by the members of their committee required 40 dozen eggs, one and one-half large sacks of flour for buttermilk biscuits, pounds of bacon, gallons of fruit juice and coffee and several large cans of peach marmalade.

Honored Guests.

Honored guests were presented by Mrs. L. A. Malone, president of the W.S.C.S., and included Mrs. Harriet Palmer Reed, Mrs. Minnie Maze Loser and Mrs. J. N. Greene, the only members of the group who served the first May breakfast; Rev. J. N. Greene, who was pastor of the church in 1901; Miss Sally Dawson, who had attended many of the 50 May Breakfasts; the Rev. and Mrs. J. Porter, a former pastor; the Rev. and Mrs. T. L. Stovall, and Mrs. William DeMoss, mother of Mrs. Stovall.

Regrets were received from Mrs. Laura Cramer, who is ill; Mrs. Iva Rosenbery, of Decatur; Mrs. Nell Petri, of North Terre Haute; Mrs. Zora Richardson, of Louisville, and Mrs. Blanche Bernhelmer, Terre Haute, all of whom helped serve the first May Breakfast or were guests at it. Corsages and menu cards and programs on gold paper were sent to all of them.

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Circuit riders

Ts OCT 11 1984

Churches (W.V.)

Maple Ave. church reaching out for support

Maple Avenue United Methodist Church members will re-enact a part of their history beginning Sunday as they become "circuit riders" in their own neighborhoods.

The Rev. Robert Fair, pastor, explained that the church is using the Circuit Ride Stewardship Plan to learn members' planned support of the proposed program and budget for the coming year.

"This will be a genuinely exciting event," Fair said. "It ties in nicely with our denomination's celebration this year of the Bicentennial of Methodism in America."

He explained that 200 years ago, at the Christmas Conference in Baltimore, Md., 60 Methodist preachers came together to decide a form of church government, choose general superintendents and re-commit themselves to "reform the continent and spread scriptural holiness over these lands."

"Just as the early day Methodist preachers on horseback rode from outpost to outpost on a frontier 'circuit' to spread the gospel, our people will 'ride' from place to place to share the good news and strengthen the church," Fair said.

Church members will take turns relaying a stewardship saddlebag from home to home on a neighborhood circuit of 10 families each. A family fills in an estimate of giving card, seals it in an



Church seeks support

Finance committee members of Maple Avenue United Methodist Church, utilizing a "circuit rider" plan beginning Sunday, are the Rev. Robert Fair, Dr. Paul Humphrey, James A. Ball, Helen Short, Ron Wright, Carl Moffett and Oscar Nipple.

envelope and inserts it in the saddlebag, which then is hand-carried to another family.

With this program, there is no solicitation of pledges and no hardsell to obtain financial support for the church, the pastor said.

"Each family simply decides in the privacy of their home the amount of their estimated giving during the next year, without any over-the-shoulder supervision of a church official," he explained.

"In addition to their personal commitment, the secret of the success of the original circuit riders lay in their connectional teamwork."

Prior to the kickoff of the saddlebag relay, the church's adults, youth and elementary age children will engage in studies of Christian stewardship.

Fair said Dr. Paul Humphrey is the general superintendent of the event and that John Templeton is chairman of the finance committee.

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Churches (24)

MAPLE AVENUE METHODIST CHURCH

Maple Avenue at Twelfth Street

TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA



GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY



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TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

October 5 -- October 12

1941

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MAPLE AVENUE METHODIST CHURCH

"A Church That Serves"

Maple Avenue at Twelfth Street

TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA



Titus Lowe Resident Bishop, Indianapolis

John Emmett Porter District Superintendent, Greencastle

Buel E. Horn Minister

Mrs. Marcia Mills Church Secretary

Charles Diehl Custodian

*Esther Newton Jinks,
Frederick Black, Jr.*

*Director of Music
Organist.*

A SHORT HISTORY OF MAPLE AVENUE METHODIST CHURCH

January 24, 1892, is the official birthday of Maple Avenue Church, but the first step toward organizing religious interests in the Twelve Points area (then a thinly settled district at the edge of Terre Haute) occurred December 20, 1889, when at the invitation of Miss Clara Hauck, a little Sunday School group met at the Hauck home. By December 27, forty-eight members had been secured, and for sometime thereafter the Sunday School was held in a room in the Petri Building at Thirteenth Street and Lafayette Avenue.

During the year 1890 a frame church was built on the present site, the lot being donated by W. W. Cliver, and dedicated as the Maple Avenue Protestant Union Church. James Nichols, John T. Petri, and Jabez Smith were among the trustees. As the work of the Union congregation did not prosper according to the hopes of its founders, the property, including the parsonage at 2005 North Tenth Street was offered to the Centenary M. E. Church, then extensively fostering missions in the newer residential sections.

On Sunday, January 24, 1892, the little white frame church was re-dedicated as Maple Avenue Chapel of Centenary M. E. Church, Dr. T. L. Coultas of Centenary, presiding. On this day there were but twenty-five members of the church, Dr. E. T. Spotswood being the first to enroll. During the following month the congregation grew to eighty-eight. The Reverend A. T. Briggs, associate pastor of Centenary, was the mission pastor. On August 27, 1894, Maple Avenue M. E. Church became an independent entity by transfer from Centenary to a Board of trustees of its own. Meanwhile another lot had been purchased and an addition built to the east of the original building.

The membership of church and Sunday School kept pace with population growth, and ten years after the original building was erected the inclosed basement story. In 1902 the building and furnishings were begun. The frame building was moved to the rear of the lot August 16, 1900.

The corner stone was laid September 24, 1900, the Reverend Worth M. Tippy of Centenary presiding. For two years services were held in the inclosed basement story. In 1902 the building and furnishings were completed. Dedication occurred December 14, 1902, the Reverend Benjamin I. Ives, of Auburn, N. Y., officiating. Pledges made on this day had been fully paid by December 8, 1907, when the mortgage was burned with appropriate ceremony. The building had cost nearly \$18,000. The congregation by this time numbered more than eight hundred.

Meanwhile, in 1905, a modern two-story parsonage was built at 2122 North Eleventh Street on a lot given by Mrs. Sadie Mass.

Further growth of church and Sunday School led in 1912 to the



BUEL E. HORN
Minister

erection of the three-story addition at the rear of the original building, containing the gymnasium, twenty class rooms, and an additional assembly room, bringing the church building to its present dimensions. This addition cost about \$15,000. The dedication was performed June 22, 1913, by the Reverend Edgar A. Blake, then secretary of the Board of Sunday Schools of the M. E. Church.

Sunday, December 27, 1914, the Sunday School celebrated its silver anniversary, the Reverend Harry C. Wilson coming from Chicago to make a constructive survey of the church school and to speak.

The main building was re-roofed and the tower remodeled in 1919 at a cost of \$3,000, and December 30, 1920, final payment was made of all indebtedness on the church building. A third adjoining lot was purchased May 22, 1919.

The next great plant expansion occurred in 1926 when the entire exterior of the building was repaired, the whole interior was redecorated, the auditorium was refurnished except for the pews, a new young people's meeting room was constructed by flooring the second story to the rear of the auditorium, and on the first floor permanent walls replaced the rolling partitions between department rooms. These improvements cost about \$20,000.

October 3-8, 1928, the Northwest Indiana Conference was entertained at Mape Avenue.

On January 25, 1931, the fortieth anniversary of the church was celebrated with Bishop Edgar Blake as the chief speaker.

In the early fall of 1934 the one-hundred-and-fiftieth birthday of Methodism was celebrated and an educational program in church history was carried on throughout the year.

The debt incurred by the 1926 improvement was not reduced as rapidly as had been expected, but in 1934 it was re-financed in a satisfactory way, and since that time monthly payments provided for in the annual budget have cared for the interest payments and a steady reduction in principal.

In July, 1938, the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Junior Epworth League was celebrated, G. Leroy Schnell, who was largely responsible for the early success of this organization, being present, together with former members from many distant points.

During the summer of 1941 a new furnace was installed, the auditorium was redecorated, and other interior walls were cleaned in preparation for the fiftieth anniversary.

The church school has always been a most important feature of the church. It has been well graded and departmentalized since 1907, has been supplied with the best available instructional materials, and has been guided by progressive educational principles. The school had its largest enrollment during the early years of the century when Maple Avenue was the only church in the area now served by five demonimations, but it still had during the year 1940-1941, the largest average attendance of any school in the Greencastle District. It has been served by hundreds

of devoted teachers and by the following superintendents: I. B. Gwyn, W. S. Roney, J. S. Hoagland, George W. Thompson, C. W. Woods, S. C. Brown, J. A. Ransford, B. E. Lockwood, John S. Hubbard, Ira D. Andrews, O. E. Nantz, John Swander, Frank Bartholomew, Raymond Reece, Nell Smyres, Helen Price, and Vachel Breidenbaugh.

In connection with the success of the church, special mention must be made of the work of the women. The first ancestor of the present W. S. C. S. was a band known as the Willing Workers (of which Mrs. E. T. Spotwood was president for many years.) This group was later known as the Ladies Industrial Society. In January, 1911, it merged with the Young Ladies Society (organized about 1894) to form the Ladies Aid, with Mrs. Charles Nehf as president. This name served until 1940 when after the union of three Methodist denominations of the United States, new organizational set-ups were adopted and the name Women's Society of Christian Service adopted. Women's Home and Foreign Missionary Societies with their young people's auxiliaries functioned well for many years until their work was also incorporated in the W. S. C. S.

Having been organized as a community church in the early days of the suburb, Maple Avenue has always been much interested in serving its community in the best way. Back at the turn of the century, the pastor, the Reverend E. S. Shumaker, who later worked so nobly with the Anti-Saloon League, and suffered a martyr's death for the Temperance Cause, waged a determined fight against illegal liquor traffic at Twelve Points. He was aided by Mr. C. Fenwick Reed, an evangelist residing in the parish, and by church members.

In 1906 the desire to transmit the missionary spirit which caused our own church to be founded, inspired the official board to establish the Ft. Harrison Mission which soon grew into independence and is now known as the Lafayette Avenue Methodist Church. About 1908, a mission Sunday School was formed at Third Street and Maple Avenue and in cooperation with members of Centenary Church, a Sunday School was conducted at Grasselli until the village was abandoned.

Following the cyclone and flood of 1913, many people living in the flooded valley near the Third Street Mission were housed and fed in Maple Avenue Church.

Members of the congregation were largely responsible for the building of Garfield High School which made secondary education available to hundreds of young people. During rebuilding after the fire of 1934, departments of the school were housed in the church.

During the first World War, church organizations and individuals worked indefatigably at Red Cross and other relief work. The pastor, the Reverend A. S. Warriner, a skilled tailor, gave efficient service in directing garment making. "Four Minute Speakers" and singers helped to keep up the morale of the city.

In the post-war period these same people turned efforts and money to the "Centenary Movement". Protestant churches of the city cooperated in sending Gospel Teams wherever desired. Horace Wilder-

muth and W. A. McBeth represented Maple Avenue on these teams.

Members of the congregation have served faithfully in all worthy civic movements and have always been eager to support cultural movements.

The church has, during its first fifty years of history, been served by thirteen pastors, all of them capable and devoted. Too much credit cannot be given to them and their families for their spiritual leadership. Pastors who have served the church since its organization, with time and length of such service, are as follows:

1892-1894	Rev. Albertus T. Briggs
1894-1896	Rev. John S. Hoagland
1896-1898	Rev. Frank Gee
1898-1901	Rev. Edward S. Shumaker
1901-1905	Rev. Joseph N. Greene
1905-1910	Rev. Frank O. Fraley
1910-1917	Rev. Albert E. Monger
1917-1918	Rev. George V. Morris
1918-1922	Rev. Albert S. Warriner
1922-1927	Rev. Charles C. Ford
1927-1932	Rev. John Emmett Porter
1932-1940	Rev. Frank Roy Briggs
1940-	Rev. Buel E. Horn

As our congregation celebrates its fiftieth birthday, we rejoice that Maple Avenue Methodist Church has been known as a young people's church, a community church, a church that serves, and we are challenged by the problems yet to be solved. We pray that during the next fifty years our church may make an even greater contribution to the spiritual development of Terre Haute.

Mary R. McBeth

Carrie B. Rupp

(The committee on church history acknowledges gratitude for early clippings contributed by Mrs. Minnie Brewer and Mr. B. E. Lockwood and for an earlier history by Mr. W. A. McBeth.)

ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

Rev. Buel E. Horn, *Chairman*

Mr. V. E. Breidenbaugh
Mr. V. D. Annekin
Miss Vivian Sinclair
Miss Mary McBeth
Miss Carrie Rupp

Mrs. Cyde Nattkemper
Mrs. J. L. Thompson
Mr. E. Lee Davis
Mr. H. L. Hyatt
Mr. J. L. Thompson



Albertus T. Briggs
1892-1894



John S. Hoagland
1894-1896



Frank Gee
1896-1898



Edward S. Shumaker
1898-1901



Joseph N. Greene
1901-1905



Frank O. Fraley
1905-1910



Albert E. Monger
1910-1917



George V. Morris
1917-1918



Albert S. Warriner
1918-1922



Charles C. Ford
1922-1927



John Emmett Porter
1927-1932



Frank Roy Briggs
1932-1940

ANNIVERSARY PROGRAM

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

October 5, 1941

Morning Worship Service, 10:40 A. M.

Prelude: "Adagio"	Rogers
Anthem: "Gently, Lord, O Gently Lead Us"	Dett
Offertory: "Consolation"	Mendelssohn
Sacrament of the Lord's Supper	
Postlude: "Meditation in E flat"	DuBois

Evening Worship

7:30 P. M.

IN CHARGE OF THE YOUNG PEOPLE

Scripture Reading	Winston Cundiff
Prayer	Fred W. Mills
Vocal Selection	Marjorie Horn
Sermon	Rev. Buel E. Horn

Monday Night, October 6, 1941

6:30 P. M.

CHURCH SCHOOL BANQUET

Toastmaster	Dr. V. Dewey Annakin
Invocation	Mr. A. C. Payne
Group Singing	
Vocal Solo	Winston Cundiff
Address	Dr. E. R. Bartlett
	Dean of DePauw University, Greencastle, Ind.
Open Forum	Toastmaster

COMMITTEE

V. E. Breidenbaugh, Chairman	Mrs. B. M. Reveal
Mr. Gilbert Cluder	Mrs. G. Cluder, Ticket Chairman
Mrs. J. L. Thompson	Stuart Smith, Decorations Chairman

DEPARTMENTAL SUPERINTENDENTS

<i>Pastor</i>	Buel E. Horn
<i>Church School Superintendent</i>	Mr. V. E. Breidenbaugh
<i>Cradle Roll</i>	Mrs. H. O. Thomas
<i>Beginners</i>	Miss Gwendolyn Sinclair
<i>Primary</i>	Mrs. Thomas Harris
<i>Junior</i>	Mrs. J. L. Warner
<i>Intermediate</i>	Mrs. Clarence Mahan
<i>Senior</i>	Miss Nell Smyres
<i>Adult</i>	Mr. Homer Powell



Tuesday, October 7, 1941

7:30 P. M.

WOMEN'S SOCIETY OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE PAGEANT

"THE DREAM", by Mrs. G. I. Kisner

Four Episodes:

- I. Living Room in Modern Home*
- II. A Dream — A Broadcast*
- III. Living Room*
- IV. The Church*

CHARACTERS

<i>Mother</i>	Mrs. Clarence Mahan
<i>Daughter</i>	Dorothy Rose Annekin
<i>Narrator</i>	Mrs. Homer Powell
<i>Radio Announcer</i>	Barbara Cundiff
<i>Voice of Methodism</i>	Mrs. J. W. Burr

Cast of 30 other characters

WOMEN'S SOCIETY OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE

OFFICERS

<i>President</i>	Mrs. C. D. Nattkemper
<i>Vice-President</i>	Mrs. E. L. Mattox
<i>Corresponding Secretary</i>	Mrs. M. Hoffa
<i>Recording Secretary</i>	Mrs. H. Powell
<i>Treasurer</i>	Mrs. G. Cluder
<i>Secretaries Missionary Education</i>	Mrs. Mahan and Mrs. Malone
<i>Secretary Social Relations and Local Church Activities</i>	Mrs. Reveal
<i>Secretary Supplies</i>	Mrs. Payne
<i>Secretary Literature and Publications</i>	Mrs. Carmichael
<i>Secretary Student Work</i>	Mrs. Annakin
<i>Secretary Women and Girls</i>	Mrs. I. Loving
<i>Secretary Children's Work</i>	Mrs. Merry
<i>Secretary Membership</i>	Mrs. L. Pelkey
<i>Secretary Wesleyan Service Guild</i>	Mrs. Shepherd



Wednesday, October 8, 1941

FAMILY NIGHT—Pot-Luck Dinner

6:30 P. M.

<i>Toast Master</i>	I. D. Andrews
<i>Invocation</i>	Rev. J. E. Porter, D D.
<i>Old Hymns of the Church</i>	
<i>Anthem—"Holy Art Thou"</i>	
<i>Duet</i>	James Watson and Winston Cundiff
<i>Church History</i>	Mary McBeth
<i>Greetings from Former Ministers</i>	
<i>Greetings from Former Members</i>	
<i>Address</i>	Rev. Joe N. Greene, D. D.
<i>Subject—"Memories"</i>	Pastor Maple Avenue 1901—1905
<i>Fellowship Hour, Greetings from Old Friends</i>	

Thursday, October 9, 1941

7:30 P. M.

QUARTERLY CONFERENCE AND LAYMEN'S NIGHT

Rev. E. J. Porter. D. D., District Superintendent, presiding

Rev. Buel E. Horn, Pastor

Male Quartet

Trustees: C. T. Gillet, Pres. C. R. Smith, Secy, Albert Allen, H. L. Hyatt,
G. I. Kisner, R. H. Shepherd, I. D. Andrews, J. L. Thompson,
Elmo Pugh.

Stewards: J. L. Thompson, Chairman; V. Dewey Annekin, Gilbert
Cluder, Lee Davis, Merrill Elliott, Albert Geiseman, Joseph
Guire, Walter Shedd, Ira Loving, Horace Wildermuth, Mrs.
Lena Carmichael, Mrs. Mack Hoffa, R. L. Jenks, Roy LaFol-
lette, Clarence Mahan, A. C. Payne, L. E. Pelkey, Stuart Smith,
Louis Matheu, Robert Tirey, J. H. Swander, Mrs. B. M. Reveal,
Homer Zenor, John Fitterer, H. L. Hyatt, Recording Steward;
Mrs. M. J. Rukes, Fred W. Mills, Communion Stewards; Mrs.
J. E. Donnelly, District Steward; J. H. Swander, Reserve Dis-
trict Steward.

Treasurer: Mr. Clyde Andrews

Secretary: Mrs. Marcia Mills

Church School Superintendent: Mr. V. E. Breidenbaugh

President Women's Society: Mrs. Clyde Nattkemper

Committee Chairmen: Membership and Evangelism, Miss Mary Mc-
Beth; Finance, J. L. Thompson; Pastoral Relations, V. Dewey
Annakin; Audit, Gilbert Cluder; Records, Mrs. J. L. Thomp-
son; Church Board of Education, V. E. Breidenbaugh; Steward-
ship, Albert Allen; Temperance, G. I. Kisner; Music, Mrs. H.
G. Tuttle; Parsonage, Mrs. J. E. Donnelly; Property, H. L.
Hyatt; Good Literature, Mrs. J. L. Thompson; Ushering, J. H.
Swander; Boys' Work, Stuart Smith; Girls' Work, Mrs. L. E.
Pelkey.



Friday, October 10, 1941

6:30 P. M.

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP BANQUET

Invocation Rev. Buel E. Horn
*Music by String Ensemble during the dinner which will be served by
mothers of the young people.*

Toastmasters: Marjorie Loving, President, Older Youth Fellowship;
Marjorie Pugh, President High School Fellowship.

Group Singing Winston Cundiff
Prayer Pat Hayward
Vocal Selection Marjorie Horn
Introduction of Speaker Tom Cundiff
Address Dr. W. Earl Pittenger,
District Superintendent, Kokomo, Ind.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH COUNCIL

Marjorie Pugh President
Mrs. J. L. Thompson Sponsor

OLDER YOUTH COUNCIL

Mrs. Marjorie Loving President
Miss Vivian Sinclair Sponsor



Sunday, October 12, 1941

ANNIVERSARY SERVICE

Morning Worship, 10:40 A. M.

Prelude: "Allegro Maestro" Guilmant
Anthem: "Great and Marvelous" Turner
Offertory Solo: "Lamb of God" Bizet
Address: "Guarding the Gates" Dr. John G. Benson
Superintendent of the Methodist Hospital, Indianapolis
Postlude: "War March of the Priests" Mendelssohn

Evening Worship, 7:30 P. M.

Prelude: "Allegro con Brio" Rogers
Anthem: "At Evening Time" Wilson
Offertory: "Memories" Demorest
Sermon: "THIS IS THE VICTORY" Rev. Buel E. Horn
Postlude: "Postlude" DiMonti

Maple Avenue Methodist Church To Mark 50th Anniversary Sunday

Former Terre Hauteans who were once members of the Maple Avenue Methodist Church will come from neighboring counties and states to attend the different events of the week's observance of the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the church, which will start Sunday, Oct. 5.

Included among these visitors will be former ministers of the church, many of whom will take part in the program for one of the week's meetings.

The interior of the church has been redecorated for the homecoming and a splendid program has been prepared.

World Communion Sunday will open the week's services. The Rev. Buel E. Horn will preach the sermon at the Sunday morning services, Winston Cundiff will have scripture reading, Fred W. Mills the prayer and Marjory Horn a vocal selection.

The Church School banquet will be held at 6:30 o'clock Monday evening with Dr. V. Dewey Annakin as toastmaster and Dr. E. R. Bartlett, dean of PePauw University, as speaker. An open forum will follow.

Wednesday will be family night. A pot luck supper will be served at 6:30 o'clock. I. D. Andrews will be toastmaster and Miss Mary McBeth will read the church history. Greetings will be read from former ministers and members unable to be present. The speaker of the evening will be the Rev. Joe N. Greene, D. D., who was minister of the church from 1901 to 1905.

On Tuesday evening the Women's Society of Christian Service will present a pageant, "The Dream," with a cast of more than forty members. On Thursday evening the first quarterly conference will be

held with Dr. J. E. Porter, Greencastle district superintendent, in charge.

The Youth Fellowship banquet will be held at 6:30 o'clock Friday evening, with the Rev. Buel E. Horn, pastor of the church, giving the invocation and Dr. W. Earl Pittenger, district superintendent of Kokomo, giving the address.

The anniversary service proper will be held on Sunday morning, Oct. 12, at services at which Dr. John G. Benson, superintendent of the Methodist Hospital at Indianapolis, will preach the anniversary sermon on the text, "Guarding the Gates." The Rev. Mr. Horn will preach at the evening services on the subject, "This Is the Victory."

There will be special musical programs for each of the services of the week.

Maple Avenue Methodist Members Review Half Century —Former Pastors Attend.

Members of the Maple Avenue Methodist Church Wednesday evening looked back through the years to the day their church was organized and the first meetings of its congregation held in a residence. They heard the history of the church given both by former ministers and by men and women who had been members of the church since its organization.

Wednesday evening, family night, was one feature of the week's program observing the fiftieth anniversary of the church's founding. A pot luck supper was served to more than 250 persons. Families sat in groups at the supper, but at its close separated to mingle with friends.

Four former ministers and their wives and the widows of two others came back to Maple Avenue for the occasion. The ministers were the Rev. Joe N. Greene, D. D., who was pastor of the church from 1901 to 1905 inclusive and who was the speaker of the evening, talking on "Memories;" the Rev. Frank O. Fraley, pastor from 1905 to 1910; the Rev. Albert E. Monger, 1901 to 1917, and the Rev. John Emmett Porter, 1927 to 1932.

The widows of former pastors were Mrs. Albertus T. Briggs and Mrs. Edward S. Shumaker. The late Rev. Mr. Briggs was the first pastor of the church, serving from 1892 to 1894, and the late Rev. Mr. Shumaker from 1898 to 1901.

The Rev. Buel Horn, present pastor of the church, and Mrs. Horn time members of the church who were among the guests of honor.

I. D. Andrews, one of the long-time members of the church who has served it as superintendent of Sunday School and in other capacities, was toastmaster. The Rev. J. E. Porter, D. D., gave the invocation. The choir led the congregation in singing old hymns and Winston Cundiff and James Watson, two of the young members of the church, sang a duet.

Miss Mary McBeth of the faculty of the Indiana State Teachers College read a history of the church which she and Miss Carrie B. Rupp had compiled, much of the material in it coming from an earlier history by the late Professor W. A. McBeth, father of Miss McBeth.

All the visiting clergymen and their wives were introduced and gave brief greetings. Older members of the church also were intro-

duced, most of them speaking a few words.

This evening the first quarterly conference of the church will be held with Dr. J. E. Porter, superintendent of the Greencastle District, presiding. Men of the church will furnish the entertainment and refreshments for the evening.

On Friday evening the Youth Fellowship banquet will be held at which Dr. W. Earl Pittenger, district superintendent of youth organizations, will be the speaker.

By Anna Bowles Wiley.

Some 400 letters went forth like white messengers to all parts of the country this week, setting forth an invitation to former members and preachers and their families to come to Terre Haute next week and participate in the celebration which will mark every day and evening of the golden jubilee of the Maple Avenue Methodist Church, 50 golden years since the founding in January of 1892.

These letters which went from Mrs. John L. Thompson, chairman of the general arrangements, pointed that "Maple Avenue Methodist Church, the church that serves, has had a glorious history for the past 50 years. It is impossible to estimate the good done by this church through the years.

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Community Affairs File

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"How many children and young people have received their inspiration and guidance in worthwhile living no one can tell, but we are sure that the Kingdom of God has become real to large numbers. We desire to give thanks to God for whatever of success has come to the church.

"It is fitting therefore that we set aside a week in which to celebrate this anniversary. The week so designated is Oct. 5 to 12. We will begin the observations with a world-wide communion at 10:45 a. m. on Oct. 5. We hope you will plan to attend as many of the services as possible. Particularly the Wednesday and Sunday programs. If you cannot be present in person, please send greetings that may be read at the Wednesday evening service."

Many replies have already been received and former members of the Sunday School class, back during the 50 years, numbering nearly 100, will return for the week's celebration. Former pastors and their wives and wives of former pastors now widowed are coming.

Some Past History.

Among these later will be Mrs. A. T. Briggs, the wife of the first minister at Maple Avenue, 50 years ago; Mrs. Edward S. Schumaker, wife of the pastor of 1898, of Indianapolis; the Rev. and Mrs. Joe N. Greene of 1901-05, of Greencastle; the Rev. and Mrs. A. E. Monger, Pittsburgh, Pa.; the Rev. and Mrs. J. E. Porter (the Rev. Mr. Porter is now the district superintendent at Greencastle); the Rev. and Mrs. F. O. Fraley and a number of others.

Word comes each day of men and women who once went at the clang of the bell calling them to service during the 50 years who will or cannot come.

A very full program has indeed been outlined for the week. On Sunday morning will be World Communion Day and this service will be observed at the 10:45 o'clock service. The young people of the church will be in charge of the evening service. On Monday night at 6:30 the church school will hold a banquet. Dr. V. Dewey Annakin of the Indiana State Teachers College will be the toastmaster. Dr. E. R. Bartlett, dean of DePauw University will be the principal speaker for the occasion. V. E. Eriedenbaugh is chairman of arrangements for this event.

On Tuesday, Oct. 7, at 7:30 o'clock P. M., the Womens' Society of Christian Service will present a pageant written by one of their own members in commemoration of the anniversary. This pageant is entitled "The Dream" and Mrs. Ira Kisner is the author. There is a cast of thirty-five characters taking part in the pageant.

Hold Family Night.

Wednesday night will be family night. There will be a pot-luck supper served. Former ministers and former members will be special guests and this get-together session promises to be a regular love feast. The Rev. J. N. Greene, a former pastor in 1901 to 1905, will be the principal speaker. His topic will be "Memories."

On Thursday night the Rev. J. E. Porter, district superintendent, will hold the first quarterly conference at the church. The laymen of Maple Avenue Methodist Church will furnish a program and will serve refreshments at the close of the conference.

On Friday evening at 6:30 o'clock the young people of the church will hold their banquet. Dr. W. Earl Pittenger, district superintendent of Kokomo, will be the guest

by the mothers of the young people and a string ensemble will furnish a musical program during the banquet.

On Sunday, Oct. 12, the real anniversary session will be marked. Dr. John G. Benson, superintendent of the Methodist Hospital, Indianapolis, will furnish the main address of the morning and the Rev. Buel E. Horn, pastor of the church serving now, will speak on "This is the Victory" Sunday night.

The 100 members of the Sunday School class taught by Mrs. J. L. Thompson, then Miss Marie Owen, will hold a class reunion on the morning of Oct. 12.

The Friendship Class of the church school on last Sunday morning, numbered seven women members who were in this class when first organized fifty years ago.

Looking backward fifty years, and consulting past history which had been summed up some time ago by the late Prof. William McBeth, who was a member with his family for years of the church. Mr. McBeth's notes have been perused by his daughter, Miss Mary McBeth, who finds that the official birthday of the Maple Avenue Methodist Church is on Jan. 24, 1892, but the first step toward organizing religious interests in the Twelve Points area, then a thinly settled district at the edge of Terre Haute, took place on Dec. 30, 1889, when at the invitation of Miss Clare Hauck, a little Sunday School group met at the Hauck home. By Dec. 27, forty-eight members had been secured and for some time thereafter the Sunday School was held in a room in the Petri Building at Thirteenth Street and Lafayette Avenue.

Some Church History.

During the year of 1890 a frame church was built on the present site, the lot being donated by W. W. Oliver, and dedicated as the Maple Avenue Protestant Church. James, Nicholas, John T. Petri and Jabez Smith were among the trustees. As the work of the Union Congrega-

tion did not prosper according to the hopes of its founders, the property, including the parsonage at 2005 North Tenth Street was offered to Centenary M. E. Church, then extensively fostering missions in the newer residential districts.

On Sunday, Jan. 24, 1892, the little white frame church was rededicated as Maple Avenue Chapel of Centenary M. E., Dr. T. L. Coultas of Centenary presiding. On this day there were but twenty-five members of the church, Dr. E. T. Spotswood being the first to enroll. During the following month the congregation grew to eighty-eight. The Rev. A. T. Briggs, associate pastor of Centenary was the first mission pastor. On Aug. 27, 1894, Maple Avenue M. E. Church became an independent entity by transfer from Centenary to a board of trustees of its own. Meanwhile another lot had been purchased and an addition built to the east of the original building.

The cornerstone was laid Sept. 24, 1900, the Rev. Worth M. Tippy of Centenary presiding. For two years services were held in the inclosed basement story. In 1902 the building and furnishings were completed. Dedication occurred Dec. 14, 1902, the Rev. Benjamin I. Ives of Auburn, N. Y., officiating. Pledges made on this day had been fully paid by Dec. 8, 1907, when the mortgage was burned with appro-



REV. BUELL HORN.

priate ceremony. The building had cost nearly \$18,000. The congregation by this time numbered more than 800.

Meanwhile in 1905 a modern two-story parsonage was built at 2122 North Eleventh street on a lot given by Mrs. Sadie Mass.

Dedicate Addition.

Further growth of the church and Sunday School led in 1912 to the erection of the three-story addition at the rear of the original building, containing the gymnasium, 20 class rooms and an additional assembly room, bringing the church building to its present dimensions. This addition cost about \$15,000. The dedication was performed June 22, 1913, by the Rev. Edgar A. Blake, then secretary of the Board of Sunday Schools of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

The church school has always been a most important feature of the church. It was been well graded and departmentalized since 1907, has been supplied with the best available instructional materials and has been guided by progressive educational principles. The school had its largest enrollment during the early years of the century when Maple Avenue was the only church in the area now served by five denominations, but it still had during the year 1940-1941 the largest average attendance of any school in the Greencastle district. It has been served by hundreds of devoted teachers and by the following superintendents: I. E. Gwyn, W. S. Roney, J. S. Hougland, George Thompson, C. W. Woods, S. C. Brown, J. A. Iansford, B. E. Lockwood, John S. Hubbard, Ira D. Andrews, O. E. Nantz, John Swander, Frank Bartlomew, Raymond Reece, Nell Smyres, Helen Price and Vachel Breidenbaugh.

In connection with the success of the church, special mention must be made of the work of the women. The first ancestor of the present W. S. C. S. was a band known as the Willing Workers (of which Mrs. E. T. Spotswood was president for many years). This group was later known as the Ladies' Industrial So-

ciety. In January, 1911, it merged with the Young Ladies' Society (organized about 1894) to form the Ladies' Aid, with Mrs. Charles Nehf as president.

This name served until 1940 when, after the union of three Methodist denominations of the United States, new organizational setups were adopted and the name became Women's Society of Christian Service. Women's home and missionary societies with their young people's auxiliaries functioned well for many years until their work was also incorporated in the W. S. C. S.

Having been organized as a community church in the early days of the suburb, Maple Avenue has always been much interested in serving its community in the best way. Back at the turn of the century, the pastor, the Rev. E. S. Shumaker, who later worked with the Anti-Saloon League, suffered a martyr's death for the temperance cause. He was aided by C. Fenwick Reed, an evangelist residing in the parish, and by church members.

In 1906 the desire to transmit the missionary spirit which caused our own church to be founded, inspired the official board to establish the Fort Harrison Mission Church which soon grew into Independence and is now known as the Lafayette Avenue Methodist Church. About 1908 a mission Sunday School was formed at Third Street and Maple Avenue and in co-operation with members of Centenary Church, a Sunday School was conducted at Grasehill, until the village was abandoned.

Following the cyclone and flood of 1913 many people living in the flooded valley near the Third Street Mission were housed and fed in Maple Avenue Church.

Members of the congregation were largely responsible for the building of Garfield High School which made secondary education available to hundreds of young people.

During the first World War church organizations and individuals worked indefatigably at Red Cross and other relief work. The pastor, the Rev. A. S. Warringer, a skilled tailor, gave efficient service in directing garment making. "Four minute speakers" and singers helped to keep up the morale of the city.

In the post-war period these same people turned efforts and money to the "Centenary Movement." Protestant churches of the city co-operated in sending gospel teams wherever desired. Horace Wildermuth and W. A. McBeth represented Maple Avenue on these teams.

List of Pastors.

The church has, during its first fifty years of history, been served by thirteen pastors all of them capable and devoted. Too much credit cannot be given to them and their families for their spiritual leadership. Pastors who have served the church since its organization with time and length of service are as follows:

1892-94, the Rev. Albertus T. Briggs; 1894-96, the Rev. John S. Hougland; 1898-01, the Rev. Edward S. Shumaker; 1901-05, the Rev. Joseph N. Greene; 1905-10, the Rev. Frank O. Fraley; 1910-17, the Rev. Albert E. Monger; 1917-18, the Rev. George V. Morris; 1918-22, the Rev. Albert S. Warringer; 1922-27, the Rev. Charles C. Ford; 1927-32, the Rev. John Emmett Porter; 1932-40, the Rev. Frank Roy Briggs; 1940, the Rev. Buel E. Horn.

Rupp have written a history of the church, and most interesting book-lets will be given out Wednesday at the get-together meeting of former parishers and pastors.

Give Pageant Thursday.

On Monday evening it is announced that Dr. V. Dewey Annakin of Indiana State Teachers College where he is the dean of men, will act as toastmaster. A. C. Payne will offer the invocation. There will be group singing. Winston Cundiff will be heard in a solo. Dr. E. R. Bartlett, dean of DePauw University will deliver the address, and an open forum will be held with Mr. Annakin as the leader. The committee in charge is composed of V. E. Breidenbaugh, chairman; Gilbert Cluder, Mrs. J. L. Thompson, Mrs.

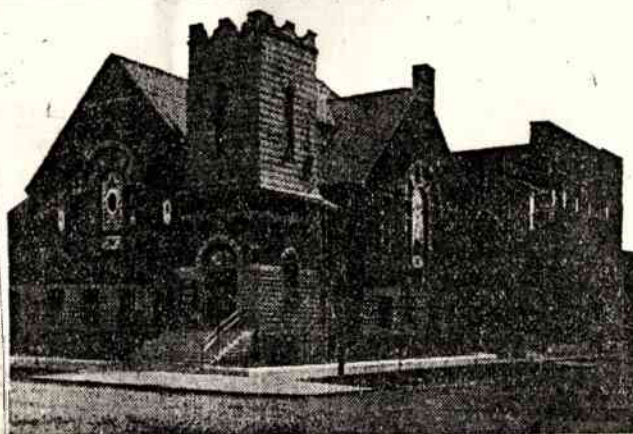
B. M. Reveal. Ticket chairman. Mrs. G. Cluder. Decorations chairman, Stuart Smith.

Tuesday's program contains a pageant which will be staged by the Woman's Society of Christian Service. This pageant is a dream written by Mrs. G. Ira Kisner and is in four episodes.

1. Living room in modern home.
2. A dream—a broadcast.
3. Living room.
4. The church.

Characters—Mother, Mrs. Clarence Mahan; daughter, Dorothy Rose Annakin; narrator, Mrs. Homer Powell; radio announcer, Barbara Cundiff; voice of Methodism, Mrs. J. W. Burr, and cast of 30 other characters.

Each day the program will be a different one.



MAPLE AVENUE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

The golden anniversary of Maple Avenue Methodist Church, Twelfth Street and Maple Avenue, will be observed Oct. 5 to Oct. 12. Special services have been planned for each evening during this period. Monday evening will be observed as Church School night and there will be a banquet; Tuesday evening will be observed as Women's Society of Christian Service and there will be a pageant and fellowship hour; Wednesday night will be family night and there will be a pot-luck dinner; Thursday will be observed as official board and layman's night and the first quarterly conference will be held; Friday will be youth fellowship night and there will be a banquet and Dr. Earl Pittenger, district superintendent from Kokomo, Ind., will speak.

Anniversary Sunday will be observed with special services Oct. 12. Dr. John Benson, superintendent of Methodist Hospital will be the guest speaker at the morning service. His topic will be "Guarding the Gates." At the opening service the pastor, the Rev. Buel E. Horn, will speak on "This Is the Victory."

CHURCH BUILT AT COST OF \$20,000

Dedication of Maple Avenue M. E. Church Occurs Sunday
CONGREGATION GROWS FAST

The Rev. J. N. Greene Expects to Lift Debt — All-Day Services Arranged for Sunday

On next Sunday the Maple Avenue Methodist Episcopal church at Maple avenue and Twelfth street, will be dedicated with an all day service. The handsome edifice has just been completed and no prettier church is to be found in Terre Haute. The pastor, the Rev. J. N. Greene, has been busy for the past few weeks preparing for the dedication and has been fortunate in securing the Rev. B. J. Ives of Auburn, N. Y., to assist in the day's exercises.

The Maple avenue church has been in existence only thirteen years but in those few years has grown wonderfully and the membership of the church is increasing rapidly. Thirteen years ago when the Centenary M. E. church was establishing missions over the city, one was located in an old frame building at the corner of Maple avenue and Twelfth street. A. T. Briggs and H. T. Ogden were then the assistants to the pastor of Centenary and they took an active part in the organization of the Maple Avenue Sunday school. When the mission was first established the north part of Terre Haute was not densely settled, but year after year new houses went up and six years ago the Maple Avenue M. E. church was organized and the Rev. J. S. Hoagland, now of Greencastle, was called as its first pastor. The Rev. Frank Gee succeeded him and was pastor for two years. The Rev. E. S. Shoemaker, now of Williamsport, followed and he remained for three years. A little over a year ago the present pastor, the Rev. J. N. Greene was installed and it has been largely due to his efforts that the work on the church was taken up and pushed to completion.

The building of the church began in June of 1900, and during the first year the foundation was completed and a portion of the walls erected. The congregation held its regular services in the basement for more than two years while a lack of finances delayed the work, but six months ago the pastor with the assistance of the building committee, succeeded in having work resumed and since that time there has been no delays. The exterior of the edifice was finished several weeks ago and last week the last of the interior work was completed and the furniture put in place. Everything is now in readiness for the dedication, except setting up the pipe organ. It will arrive today and will be ready for use on Sunday.

The church occupies almost the entire lot at the southeast corner of

Maple avenue and Twelfth street. It is of red pressed brick and the architecture is modern and handsome. The basement which is light and roomy is finished neatly in soft wood and the three large rooms are connected by large doors that can be raised or lowered. One of these rooms will be used for the primary department of the Sunday school while the other two will be used for the general assembly room of the Sunday school.

A broad staircase finished in hard wood leads from the front entrance of the church to the main floor of the building. The auditorium is large and the furnishing modest yet beautiful. The rows of benches extend back to a large opening back of which is another large room where chairs will be arranged instead of benches. One of the most gorgeous things about the church is the windows. The three large windows, and in fact all of the windows in the building are gifts of individuals or societies. The large west window was put in by the Knights of Pythias. The east window by the Young Ladies' society of the church and the north window by the W. C. T. U. The latter window contains a portrait of Frances Willard and the dainty coloring and remarkable likeness of the picture have attracted much attention. The church together with the ground, cost about \$20,000. There is still a heavy debt to be met, but it is believed that on next Sunday a large portion of this can be raised. The pastor said yesterday that the financial condition of the church is excellent and he has not the slightest doubt that the offerings on Sunday will more than pay all the outstanding debts.

The dedicatory services will begin with daybreak prayer services lead by the Rev. E. A. Shumaker, a former pastor of the church. At 9:30 there will be the morning class services and at 10:30 o'clock the dedication sermon will be delivered by the Rev. B. J. Ives. In the evening the Rev. Mr. Ives will again preach. Special music has been arranged for the day and Mrs. Allyn Adams will probably preside at the organ.

NEW M. E. CHURCH WAS DEDICATED

Happy Day for Maple Avenue Congregation

WILL BE CLEAR OF DEBT

New Pipe Organ Will Be Introduced to Public With Recital Friday Night

Probably the greatest day in the history of Maple Avenue M. E. church was experienced yesterday in the dedication of the new building just completed. The church is located on the corner of Twelfth street and Maple avenue.

The services were very enthusiastic and joyful throughout the day. The morning services were begun by the reading of part of the ritual by Rev. Mr. Greene, pastor of the

church, after which the choir rendered the beautiful anthem, "Lord God of Hosts," by Carrie B. Adams. Dr. Ives of Auburn, N. Y., who came here for the purpose of dedicating the church, offered a very heartfelt and fervent prayer for the spiritual and financial progress of the church. Dr. Ives preached a very practical, enthusiastic sermon, taking his text from Second Corinthians, 4th chapter, 4th verse: "The Glorious Gospel of Christ."

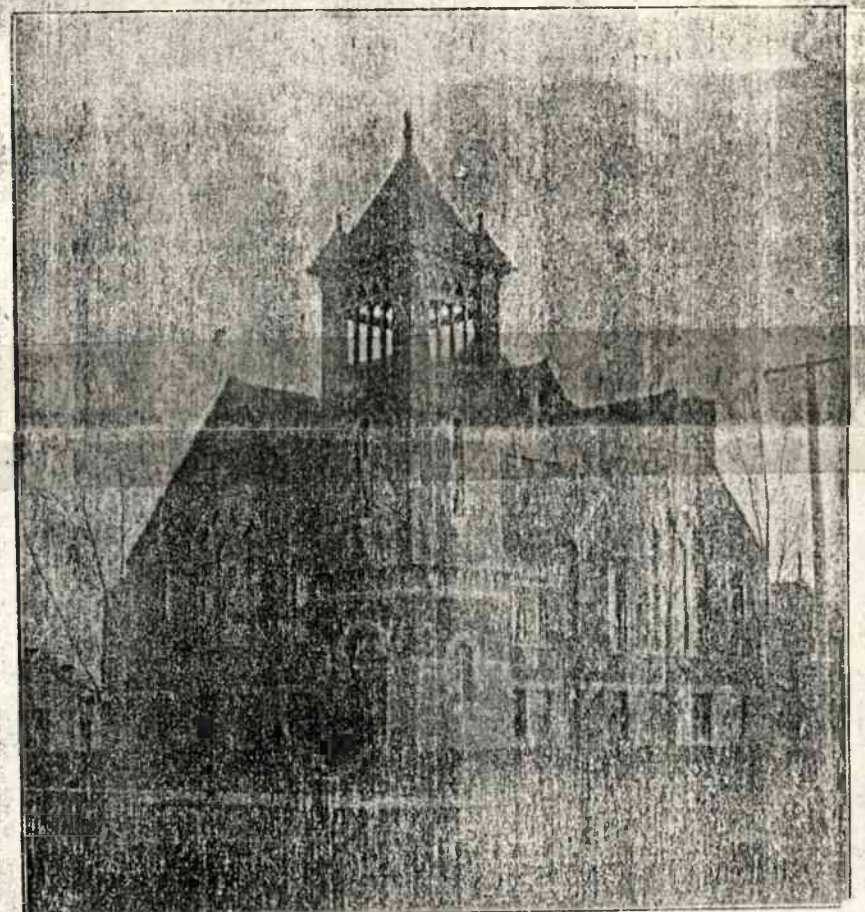
Dr. Ives has dedicated 2,200 churches without one failure, which is a record unequalled and which will never again be reached.

There were about 700 people present, and the amount required to be raised was given with very little effort.

The afternoon services were equally enthusiastic and enjoyable. Dr. Spottawood, the first member of Maple avenue church, gave a short address after which Colonel Melcann, the first person to subscribe to the building of the new church, talked briefly and interestingly for a short time. Rev. Mr. Shumaker, former pastor of the church, spoke a few words of encouragement and greeting, after which Rev. Mr. Hoagland, the first pastor of the church, gave a short address.

Regardless of the inclement weather about 500 people attended the evening service. Dr. Ives preached again and at the close of the sermon, asked for \$500 to complete the needed amount. The entire amount needed for the removing of all debt was near \$6,000. Of this the larger part was raised in the morning and at the close of the evening service every dollar had been subscribed with a small margin. The day was pleasant throughout and the people gave with happiness and a general good feeling and spiritual uplift characterized the close of the day's work. The pipe organ which was not in place because of a delay, will be placed this week. It arrived Saturday.

On next Friday evening a grand organ recital will be given on it by Prof. Donley of Indianapolis. Those who enjoy a high grade of music may expect a treat.



THE BEAUTIFUL NEW MAPLE AVENUE CHURCH WHERE THE

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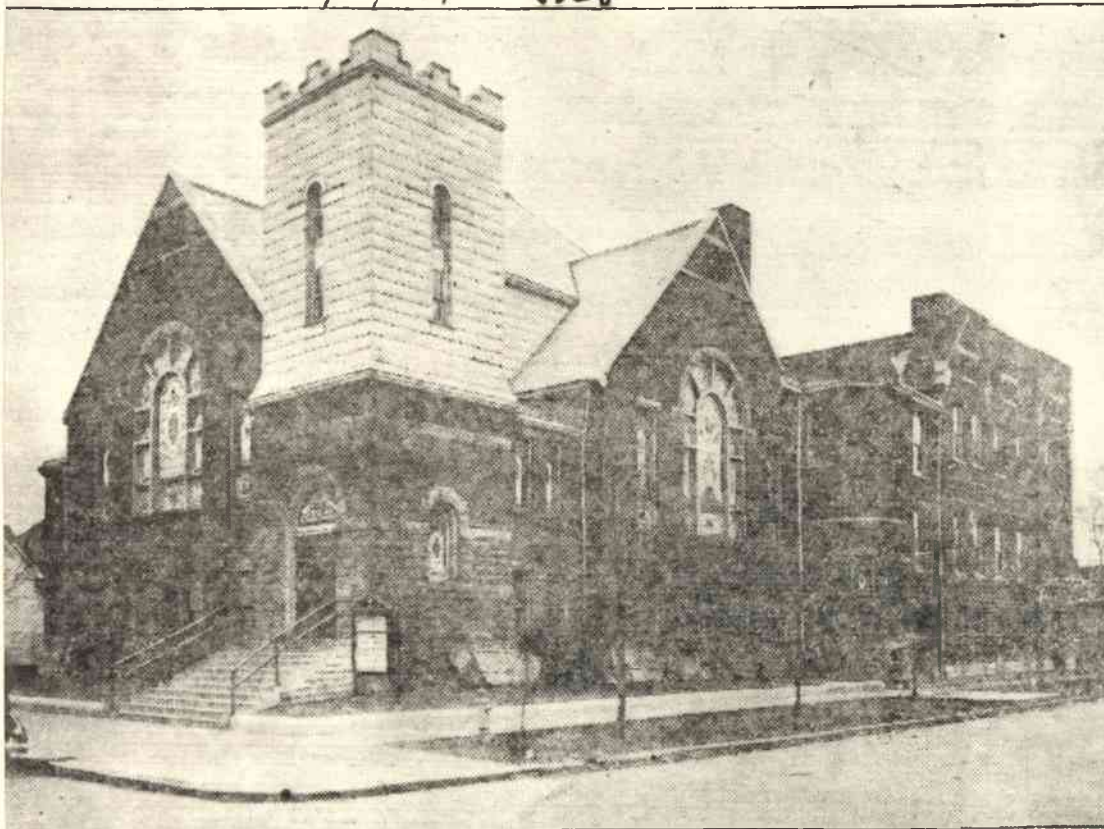
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Churches (wv)

Community Affairs File

**Maple Avenue Methodist Church Will Celebrate
Burning of Building Mortgage Throughout Today**

3/5/44 *trib*



Culminating a recent financial campaign in which a total of more than \$11,000 was secured in contributions, the congregation of the Maple Avenue Methodist church today will participate in a mortgage-burning service at 10:30 o'clock this morning.

In celebration of the achievement, an entire day's program of services will be held with a basket dinner to be served at noon.

The program of services includes an "Every Member Present Day" at the church school at 8:30 a. m., the mortgage burning services at 10:30 a. m.

The noon dinner will be followed by a fellowship program.

Community Affairs File

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TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

Maple Ave. Methodist Church Plans Golden Anniversary May Breakfast

74/38/30

The Golden Anniversary May Breakfast to be served in the parlors of the Maple Avenue Methodist church next Thursday morning will bring together at least a score of people who were guests at the first May breakfast served at the church—that on May 1, 1890.

Some of them still live in Terre Haute and have attended almost all of the fifty May Breakfasts served at the church. Others will come from other towns and other places to attend this, believed by the Hauteans to be the first Golden Anniversary May Breakfast served by a group of churchmen.

This year the site is the same as it was for the first May breakfast at the church but the scene has changed. Then, the church was a low white frame building; today, the large brick church is one of the most modern in the middle west.

Then the enterprising young women, members of a young women's Sunday School class who formed the Young Ladies' Society of the church faced a lot of difficulties. But they had determination and were eager to do something new in the way of raising money for the church as was their teacher, Miss Clara Hank.

'Twas true there wasn't a church kitchen but they could improvise one, they said. And they did. Two-

burner oil stoves were brought to the church on what the boys of that time called "express wagons" to cook the meal. Dishes, knives and forks, spoons, pans, kettles and

all kitchen and dining room equipment had to be brought the same way.

Tasty Menu.

The menu for that breakfast was a delight to the members of the Young Ladies' Society. Some of the foods served were meat loaf, Boston baked beans, fried potatoes, coffee, biscuits and still other foods not seen on today's breakfast table.

Mrs. Minnie Maze Loser and Mrs. Hattie Palmer, both of whom are members of the Women's Society for Christian Service, successor to the Young Ladies' Society of long ago and other church organizations of women, helped prepare that first May breakfast. Proudly they talk about the menu, the good time everybody had and the attractive tables covered with long white damask cloths and decorated with wild flowers, violets, picked from the old towpath, predominating. In fact there were so many violets that a small bouquet of them were at each place.

So successful was the first May breakfast that another was served the next year and a third on the

year following. Soon they were institutions and people came from different parts of Terre Haute to eat the May Day breakfasts at the Maple Avenue church. And soon the proceeds from them were helping finance work of the church.

Mr. and Mrs. Evert Bray were among the people who have missed few May Breakfasts at Maple Avenue church since they ate their

first ones. Mrs. Bray has attended 38 according to her own count. Mr. Bray has attended one or two less.

This year the breakfast will be cooked in the modernized kitchen at the church and served in its dining room. The tables will be decorated in flowers. But there will be no small bouquets of violets at each place.

This year's menu—hot biscuits, bacon, eggs, fruit juice and coffee—will be more modern and more tasty to today's breakfast patrons. But there will be some old timers who will talk longingly of the thick apple butter they spread on their biscuits forty or forty-five or fifty years ago.

Program Arranged.

As there has been for several years, a program will be given in connection with the breakfast. At 6:50 o'clock a May Queen Festival will be given under the direction of Mrs. Dewey Annakin; at 7 o'clock a Maypole dance directed by Mrs. Lee Davis with children of the Sunday School participating; and at 8 o'clock recognition of honor guests will be given.

Among those honored guests will be Mrs. Loser and Mrs. Reed, of course. Others will include as many other women who served that first May breakfast as the Women's Society for Christian Service can get.

Several of these honored guests who have sent word that they will be at the breakfast will be: Mrs. Zora Richardson, her son, Wayne and his wife of Louisville, Ky., and Florida; Mrs. Mary Belt Mueller and Mrs. Nell Belt Petri of North Terre Haute; Mrs. Laura Kramer of the Rose Home; Mrs. Iva Rupp Rosenberry of Decatur, Ill., and the Rev. and Mrs. Joseph Greene of Indianapolis.

Community Affairs File

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**Fifty Years Ago—Young Ladies of Maple Ave. Methodist
Church Who Founded the Church's Annual May Breakfast**

Apr. 30, 1950 Methodist - Maple Ave. Churches (WV)



First row (bottom) left to right: Mrs. Elmer Ransford, Mrs. Etta Turner, Mrs. Ed Ransford, Mrs. Mattie Smith, Mrs. Willis Wright and Miss Lillie Palmer.

Second row: Mrs. Alex Ransford, Mrs. Zora Richardson, Mrs. John Horn, Mrs. Addie Smith Nation, Mrs. W. Tibbets, Mrs. Garrett, Mrs. Minnie Maze Loser and Mrs. Blanche Bernhimer.

Third row: Mrs. Laura Kraemer, Mrs. Hattie Norris, Mrs. Hattie Palmer Reed, Mrs. J. N. Greene, Mrs. Bessie Ogden, Mrs. S. C. Brown, Mrs. John Simpkins and Mrs. Martha Rupp Hamacher.

Fourth row: Mrs. Hattie Bayles, Mrs. Poole, Mrs. Horace Wildermuth, Mrs. Effie Thompson Dunbar, Mrs. Gertrude May, Mrs. Belle Lane, Mrs. Ella Roberts and Mrs. Nell Belt Petr.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1941.

T. H. Trib - Star

Golden Jubilee At Maple Ave. Church Marked By Entire Week's Program

READERS SERVICE

VERTICAL FILE Bowles Wiley.

Some 400 letters went forth like white messengers to all parts of the country this week, setting forth an invitation to former members and preachers and their families to come to Terre Haute next week and participate in the celebration which will mark every day and evening of the golden jubilee of the Maple Avenue Methodist Church, 50 golden years since the founding in January of 1892.

These letters which went from Mrs. John L. Thompson, chairman of the general arrangements, pointed that "Maple Avenue Methodist Church, the church that serves, has had a glorious history for the past 50 years. It is impossible to estimate the good done by this church through the years.

"How many children and young people have received their inspiration and guidance in worthwhile living no one can tell, but we are sure that the Kingdom of God has become real to large numbers. We desire to give thanks to God for whatever of success has come to the church.

"It is fitting therefore that we set aside a week in which to celebrate this anniversary. The week so designated is Oct. 5 to 12. We will begin the observations with a wide communion at 10:45 a. m. on Oct. 5. We hope you will attend as many of the services as possible. Particularly the Wednesday and Sunday programs. If you cannot be present in person, please send greetings that may be read at the Wednesday evening service."

Many replies have already been received and former members of the Sunday School class, back during the 50 years, numbering nearly 100, will return for the week's celebration. Former pastors and their wives and wives of former pastors now widowed are coming.

Some Past History.

Among these later will be Mrs. A. T. Briggs, the wife of the first minister at Maple Avenue, 50 years ago; Mrs. Edward S. Schumaker, wife of the pastor of 1893, of Indianapolis; the Rev. and Mrs. Joe N. Greene of 1901-05, of Greencastle; the Rev. and Mrs. A. E. Monger, Pittsburgh, Pa.; the Rev. and Mrs. J. E. Porter (the Rev. Mr. Porter is now the district superintendent at Greencastle); the Rev. and Mrs. F. O. Fraley and a number of others.

Word comes each day of men and women who once went at the clang of the bell calling them to service during the 50 years who will or cannot come.

A very full program has indeed been outlined for the week. On Sunday morning will be World Communion Day and this service will be observed at the 10:45 o'clock service. The young people of the

church will be in charge of the evening service. On Monday night at 6:30 the church school will hold a banquet. Dr. V. Dewey Annakin of the Indiana State Teachers College will be the toastmaster. Dr. E. R. Bartlett, dean of DePauw University will be the principal speaker for the occasion. V. E. Briedenbaugh is chairman of arrangements for this event.

On Tuesday, Oct. 7, at 7:30 o'clock P. M., the Women's Society of Christian Service will present a pageant written by one of their own members in commemoration of the anniversary. This pageant is entitled "The Dream" and Mrs. Ira Kisner is the author. There is a cast of thirty-five characters taking part in the pageant.

Hold Family Night.

Wednesday night will be family night. There will be a pot-luck supper served. Former ministers and former members will be special guests and this get-together session promises to be a regular love feast. The Rev. J. N. Greene, a former pastor in 1901 to 1905, will be the principal speaker. His topic will be "Memories."

On Thursday night the Rev. J. E. Porter, district superintendent, will hold the first quarterly conference at the church. The laymen of Maple Avenue Methodist Church will furnish a program and will serve refreshments at the close of the conference.

On Friday evening at 6:30 o'clock the young people of the church will hold their banquet. Dr. W. Earl Pittenger, district superintendent of Kokomo, will be the guest speaker. The dinner will be served by the mothers of the young people and a string ensemble will furnish a musical program during the banquet.

On Sunday, Oct. 12, the real anniversary session will be marked. Dr. John G. Benson, superintendent of the Methodist Hospital, Indianapolis, will furnish the main address of the morning and the Rev. Buel E. Horn, pastor of the church serving now, will speak on "This is the Victory" Sunday night.

The 100 members of the Sunday School class taught by Mrs. J. I. Benson then Miss Marie

morning of Oct. 12.

The Friendship Class of the church school on last Sunday morning, numbered seven women members who were in this class when first organized fifty years ago.

Looking backward fifty years, and consulting past history which had been summed up some time ago by the late Prof. William McBeth, who was a member with his family for years of the church. Mr. McBeth's notes have been perused by his daughter, Miss Mary McBeth, who finds that the official birthday of the Maple Avenue Methodist Church is on Jan. 24, 1892, but the first step toward organizing religious interests in the Twelve Points area, then a thinly settled district at the edge of Terre Haute, took place on Dec.

1889, when at the invitation of Clare Hauck, a little Sunday school group met at the Hauck home. By Dec. 27, forty-eight members had been secured and for a time thereafter the Sunday school was held in a room in the building at Thirteenth Street and Lafayette Avenue.

Some Church History.

During the year of 1890 a frame church was built on the present site, the lot being donated by W. W. Ver, and dedicated as the Maple Avenue Protestant Church. James, Thomas, John T. Petri and Jabez were among the trustees. As the year of the Union Congrega-

tion did not prosper according to the hopes of its founders, the property, including the parsonage at 2005 North Tenth Street was offered to Centenary M. E. Church, then extensively fostering missions in the newer residential districts.

On Sunday, Jan. 24, 1892, the little white frame church was rededicated as Maple Avenue Chapel of Centenary M. E., Dr. T. L. Coultas of Centenary presiding. On this day there were but twenty-five members of the church, Dr. E. T. Spotswood being the first to enroll. During the following month the congregation grew to eighty-eight. The Rev. A. T. Briggs, associate pastor of Centenary was the first mission pastor. On Aug. 27, 1894, Maple Avenue M. E. Church became an independent entity by transfer from Centenary to a board of trustees of its own. Meanwhile another lot had been purchased and an addition built to the east of the original building.

The cornerstone was laid Sept. 24, 1900, the Rev. Worth M. Tippy of Centenary presiding. For two years services were held in the inclosed basement story. In 1902 the building and furnishings were completed. Dedication occurred Dec. 14, 1902, the Rev. Benjamin I. Ives of Auburn, N. Y., officiating. Pledges made on this day had been fully paid by Dec. 8, 1907, when the mortgage was burned with appro-

(cont.)

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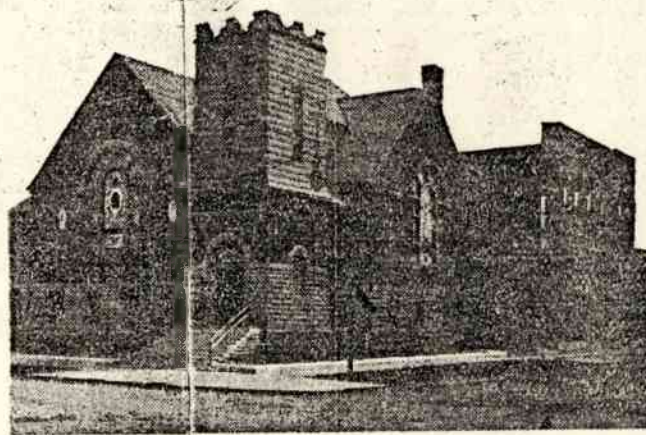
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Maple Ave. Meth. Ch.

(over)



REV. BUELL HORN.

Maple Avenue Has Jubilee; Plans Program For the Week



MAPLE AVENUE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

private ceremony. The building had cost nearly \$18,000. The congregation by this time numbered more than 800.

Meanwhile in 1905 a modern two-story parsonage was built at 2122 North Eleventh street on a lot given by Mrs. Sadie Mass.

Dedicate Addition.

Further growth of the church and Sunday School led in 1912 to the erection of the three-story addition at the rear of the original building, containing the gymnasium, 20 class rooms and an additional assembly room, bringing the church building to its present dimensions. This addition cost about \$15,000. The dedication was performed June 22, 1913, by the Rev. Edgar A. Blake, then secretary of the Board of Sunday Schools of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

The church school has always been a most important feature of the church. It was been well graded and departmentalized since 1907, has been supplied with the best available instructional materials and has been guided by progressive educational principles. The school had its largest enrollment during the early years of the century when Maple Avenue was the only church in the area now served by five denominations, but it still had during the year 1940-1941 the largest average attendance of any school in the Greencastle district. It has been served by hundreds of devoted teachers and by the following superintendents: I. B. Gwyn, W. S. Roney, J. S. Hougland, George Thompson, C. W. Woods, S. C. Brown, J. A. Ransford, B. E. Lockwood, John S. Hubbard, Ira D. Andrews, O. E. Nantz, John Swander, Frank Bartlomew, Raymond Reece, Nell Smyres, Helen Price and Vachel Breidenbaugh.

In connection with the success of the church, special mention must be made of the work of the women. The first ancestor of the present W. S. C. S. was a band known as the Willing Workers (of which Mrs. E. T. Spotswood was president for many years). This group was later known as the Ladies' Industrial So-

ciet. In January, 1911, it merged with the Young Ladies' Society (organized about 1894) to form the Ladies' Aid, with Mrs. Charles Nehf as president.

This name served until 1940 when, after the union of three Methodist denominations of the United States, new organizational setups were adopted and the name became Women's Society of Christian Service. Women's home and societies with their auxiliaries functioned years until their incorporation in the W. S. C. S.

Having been organized in 1894, the church has always been serving its community. Back at the turn of the century, the pastor, the Rev. Shumaker, who later worked the Anti-Saloon League, suffered martyr's death for the temperance cause. He was aided by C. Ferwick Reed, an evangelist residing in the parish, and by church members.

In 1906 the desire to transmit the missionary spirit which caused our own church to be founded, inspired the official board to establish the Fort Harrison Mission Church which soon grew into independence and is now known as the Lafayette Avenue Methodist Church. About 1908 a mission Sunday School was formed at Third Street and Maple Avenue and in co-operation with members of Centenary Church, a Sunday School was conducted at Grasehl, until the village was abandoned.

Following the cyclone and flood of 1913 many people living in the flooded valley near the Third Street Mission were housed and fed in Maple Avenue Church.

Members of the congregation were largely responsible for the building of Garfield High School which made secondary education available to hundreds of young people.

During the first World War church organizations and individuals worked indefatigably at Red Cross and other relief work. The pastor, the Rev. A. S. Warringer,

a skilled tailor, gave efficient service in directing garment making. "Four minute speakers" and singers helped to keep up the morale of the city.

In the post-war period these same people turned efforts and money to the "Centenary Movement." Protestant churches of the city co-operated in sending gospel teams wherever desired. Horace Wildermuth and W. A. McBeth represented Maple Avenue on these teams.

List of Pastors.

The church has, during its first fifty years of history, been served by thirteen pastors all of them capable and devoted. Too much credit cannot be given to them and their families for their spiritual leadership. Pastors who have served the church since its organization with time and length of service are as follows:

1892-94, the Rev. Albertus T. Briggs; 1894-96, the Rev. John S. Hougland; 1898-01, the Rev. Edward S. Shumaker; 1901-05, the Rev. Joseph N. Greene; 1905-10, the Rev. Frank O. Fraley; 1910-17, the Rev. Albert E. Monger; 1917-18, the Rev. George V. Morris; 1918-22, the Rev. Albert S. Warriner; 1922-27, the Rev. Charles C. Ford; 1927-32, the Rev. John Emmett Porter; 1932-40, the Rev. Frank Roy Briggs; 1940, the Rev. Buel E. Horn.

Miss McBeth and Miss Carrie R. Rupp have written a history of the church, and most interesting booklets will be given out Wednesday at the get-together meeting of former parishers and pastors.

Give Pageant Thursday.

On Monday evening it is announced that Dr. V. Deway Annakin

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Oct. 5, '41

of Indiana State Teachers College where he is the dean of men, will act as toastmaster, A. C. Payne will offer the invocation. There will be group singing. Winston Cundiff will be heard in a solo. Dr. E. R. Bartlett, dean of DePauw University will deliver the address, and an open forum will be held with Mr. Annakin as the leader. The committee in charge is composed of V. E. Breidenbaugh, chairman; Gilbert Cluder, Mrs. J. L. Thompson, Mrs.

B. M. Reveal. Ticket chairman, Mrs. G. Cluder. Decorations chairman, Stuart Smith.

Tuesday's program contains a pageant which will be staged by the Woman's Society of Christian Service. This pageant is a dream written by Mrs. G. Ira Kisner and is in four episodes.

1. Living room in modern home.
2. A dream—a broadcast.
3. Living room.
4. The church.

Characters—Mother, Mrs. Clarence Mahan; daughter, Dorothy Rose Annakin; narrator, Mrs. Homer Powell; radio announcer, Barbara Cundiff; voice of Methodism, Mrs. J. W. Burr, and cast of 30 other characters.

Each day the program will be a different one.

Maple Ave. B. McBeth

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Community Affairs File

Maple Ave United Methodist Church



Cross in the sky: Maple Avenue United Methodist Church.

Tribune-Star/Bob Poynter

Community Affairs File

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HONOR GUESTS AT GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY MAY BREAKFAST at the Maple Avenue Methodist church, reading from left to right, first row: Mrs. Hattie Palmer Reed, Mrs. J. N. Greene, Rev. J. N. Greene, Miss Sally Dawson and Mrs. Minnie Maze Loser. Top row: Mrs. J. E. Porter, Rev. J. E. Porter, Dr. T. L. Stovall and Mrs. T. L. Stovall. Mrs. Reed, Mrs. Greene and Mrs. Loser helped serve the first May breakfast at the church 50 years ago.

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Community Affairs File

Maple Avenue Church Plans Remodeling

By EULETA SLOVER

The congregation of the Maple Avenue Methodist Church will launch a \$176,700 fund-raising crusade on May 13 to finance a \$120,000 remodeling of the present religious education facilities and meet the 1960-61 church budget of \$56,700.

The Rev. R. Richmond Blake said 150 workers will participate in a service of consecration at the Sunday morning worship hour, May 22, when the Rev. William Miller of the National Board of Missions of the Methodist Church, Philadelphia, Pa., will deliver the message.

Included in the remodeling features will be a new Maple avenue entrance to the edifice and installation of an elevator from the ground level to the sanctuary.

The Rev. Mr. Blake said the elevator has been needed for many years to accommodate the congregation's elderly and infirm members.

Plan New Stairways.

The new entrance will eliminate the present steps and will provide a slight grade entrance

to the vestibule which will practically rest on a ground level. New, modern landing stairways of modern design will grace the interior of the vestibule leading up to the sanctuary. Only a few steps will be required in the new entrance to gain the basement quarters, he noted.

Principal portion of the remodeling operations is to be devoted to the educational center where a complete renovating of the various rooms will be made to make them adaptable for multiple church school purposes, including the gymnasium.

Particular attention is to be given departmental needs in pointing up better and more effective teaching facilities, the minister explained. The plans were drawn by Miller, Vrydagh and Miller Architects.

The first crusade instructional meeting for workers will be held May 18, followed by the special Sunday consecration services. At 5:30 p.m. May 22, a dinner will be held for the workers in the church's social center.

Tuesday evening, May 24, the workers will meet to sign their personal pledges and receive final instructions for the every-member canvass to be conducted the following two evenings.

General chairman of the crusade is Art Freudenberg assisted by the following committee chairmen: Oscar Nipple and Phillip Goldwell, canvass; Arch Dunbar, Lewis Yoho, T. W. Cundiff and J. W. Trimble, teams; Phil Templeton and Gilbert Cluder, spe-

cial gifts; John Council, publicity, and Mr. and Mrs. George Rhoderick, preparations.

Special Collections



DAMAGE ESTIMATES to the Memorial United Methodist Church, 2701 Poplar St., have been placed at \$350,000 by fire department officials. This aerial photograph shows the extensive damage to the building which firemen battled throughout the night. Only the church sanctuary escaped destruction. See other photo on Page 3.

Photo by House of Photography and the Brown Flying School.

Community Affairs File

Community Affairs File

Copy in Files, T.H. a

Memorial United Church Heavily Damaged By Fire

JAN 29 1973

By PAT BARNES
Tribune Staff Writer

A two-alarm fire late Sunday night at the Memorial United Methodist Church, 2701 Poplar St., destroyed a large portion of the church.

Asst. Fire Chief Ron Nicoson said that damage estimates on the building have been placed at \$300,000 and another \$50,000 damage to the contents. He said that fire department inspectors spent the morning hours sifting through the rubble in an attempt to learn the cause.

The assistant chief said that

due to the tremendous heat it will be difficult to determine what caused the blaze.

At noon Monday firemen remained on the scene pumping thousands of gallons of water from the church basement.

Rev. Willard J. Doyle, pastor of the church, said the fire totally destroyed the east wing of the church which housed the educational unit. The fire then quickly spread to the west wing of the church housing the fellowship hall, library and the church offices, and completely destroyed these areas. All the church records were destroyed

by the blaze along with the pastor's personal belongings.

The sanctuary was not damaged from the fire, the pastor said although some smoke damage may have resulted. The church organ which is located in the sanctuary, Rev. Doyle said, apparently was not damaged.

The first alarm was sounded shortly after 11 p.m., and within minutes firemen called for additional units to aid in battling the blaze.

Two firemen were injured while fighting the blaze. Edward Drehr, a fire department instructor received back injuries and Mike Ferency suffered minor burns on his face.

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Several other firemen suffered from exposure while fighting the blaze in near 10 degree above zero weather. They did not require medical attention.

Rev. Doyle said the fire broke out in the educational wing of the church. The pastor said he left the church about 9:30 p.m., and the building was secure.

Rev. Doyle said he was notified of the fire about midnight and immediately went to the scene.

The eastside church was built

Continued On Page 2, Col. 7.

1. JAN 23 1973

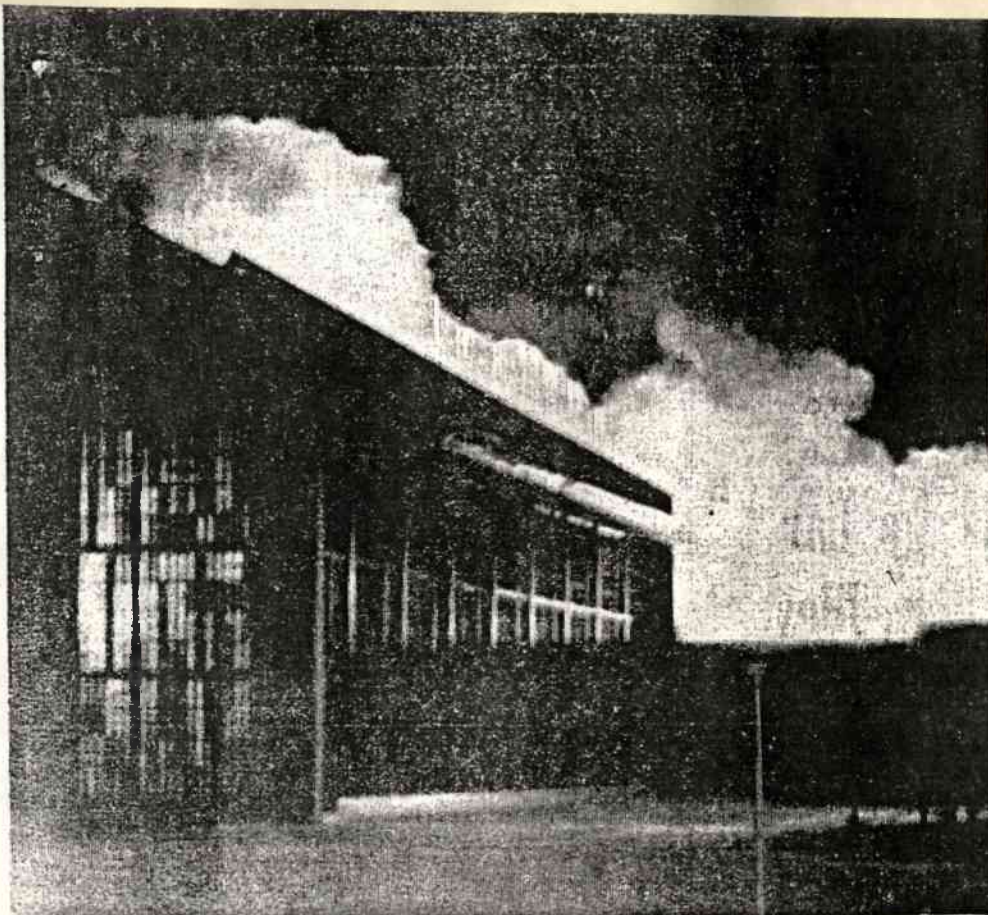
Church Fire

Continued From Page One.

in 1968 and Rev. Doyle has served as pastor for the past four years. He said the church is valued at about \$800,000.

"The officers of the church will meet later today and begin discussing how to rebuild. The church will remain in operation and services will be held this Sunday," Rev. Doyle said. The pastor said that temporary offices will be set up until the burned portion can be replaced.

Fire department units that battled the blaze throughout the night included Pumpers 2, 3, 5, 6, 8. Trucks 5 and 8.



HEAVY DAMAGE AT EASTSIDE CHURCH — Fire officials are still conducting an investigation into the two-alarm blaze late Sunday that caused heavy damage to Memorial United Methodist Church, 2701 Poplar St. Fire officials estimated the damage to the church structure, one of the city's largest and newest, at \$350,000. A major portion of the \$800,000 structure housing the sanctuary was not damaged by the fire but did sustain some smoke and water damage. The blaze, discovered some time after 11 p.m. Sunday, kept more than a score of Terre Haute firemen busy far into the morning hours Monday. (Photo by Midwest Media)

Memorial Plans Services Despite \$350,000 Blaze

By **RICHARD EVANS**
Star Staff Writer

The pastor and congregational leaders of Memorial United Methodist Church, badly damaged by a spectacular two-alarm fire late Sunday, began a series of emergency sessions Monday in an effort to keep the church operating and to lay plans for a speedy rebuilding project.

The blaze, which kept more than a score of Terre Haute firemen busy far into the morning Monday, literally destroyed the portion of the church housing educational facilities and a fellowship hall.

Fire officials estimated the damage to the \$800,000 structure at \$350,000, but church officials said insurance investigators have not yet determined the exact amount of the loss.

The church, located at 2701 Poplar St., is one of the city's newest and largest. Completed in 1968, it has nearly 1,100 members.

in January.

"I'm absolutely thrilled and certainly encouraged by the spirit of the congregation," he said late Monday. "There has been a solid show of unity on the part of the congregation in response to the tragedy."

"And there has been an unbelievable surge of support

from other churches offering facilities and other help," he continued, adding that offers of aid have come from all segments of the community.

In response to a request from church officials, the Vigo County School Board Monday night

See CHURCH FIRE

On Page 14, Column 5

Community Affairs File

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Church Fire

Continued From Page One.

authorized the use of nearby Woodrow Wilson Junior High School by the congregation in the event that it is needed.

+ + +

But the pastor says church officials at this point are working toward conducting the morning worship Sunday in the church sanctuary, which almost miraculously sustained only water and smoke damage.

The Rev. Mr. Doyle said Monday the heating unit of the church was apparently not seriously damaged by the fire, and he indicated work has already begun to restore the furnace and lighting in the undamaged portion.

In a similar positive vein he said church leaders anticipate no difficulties in rebuilding the portion of the building destroyed by the blaze. That evaluation, he said, was made after meeting with insurance representatives and officials of the Merchant's National Bank Monday.

+ + +

In addition to the loss of the extensive educational and dining facilities, the church records and office area were destroyed. But those, for the most part, can eventually be replaced.

What cannot be replaced is the sermons and other personal belongings Pastor Doyle had accumulated during a ministerial career spanning more than 30 years. His library and sermon notes went up in the flames.

+ + +

The church treasurer, William Rector, may be responsible for one bright note in the rather bleak present, however. He has maintained an updated directory of the entire church membership through the years, and that will probably serve as a basis for beginning the church records anew.

Assistant Fire Chief Ron Nicolson said Monday no cause has been determined in the blaze, and he indicated pinpointing the exact cause will be difficult if not impossible because of the complete destruction.

Two firemen suffered injuries in the fire, but neither was reported serious. Edward Drehr, a fire department instructor suffered back injuries, and Mike Ferency suffered minor burns on his face. Both received hospital treatment.

7 0 1972

Memorial UMs Plan Services Despite Fire

Churches (T.H.) S FEB 2 1973
Community Affairs File

Despite the disastrous fire which destroyed the educational, social and office facilities of the Memorial United Methodist Church at 2701 Poplar St. shortly before midnight last Sunday, preparations are being made to conduct the regular 9:30 a.m. worship service Sunday in the sanctuary, it and the Narthex being the only segments of the \$800,000 structure which were not leveled by the blaze.

According to the church pastor, the Rev. Willard J. Doyle, members of the congregation were on hand early Monday morning and began mapping plans for possible realization of an unbroken continuity of Sunday morning worship in the face of the devastating destruction.

Nursery facilities will be located in the Meadows Shopping Center hospitality room, across the street to the north and on the lower Center level, for infants and pre-school age children, to be delivered there by parents.

+ + +

All youngsters of kindergarten age and older will accompany their parents and families in the sanctuary for the memorable service, the Rev. Mr. Doyle advised. All church school classes will be suspended for the Feb. 4 Day of Worship as well as the evening gatherings of the Junior and Senior High UMYF (United Methodist Youth Fellowship) groups and the College Age Group.

The board of trustees of the Vigo County School Corporation last Monday night graciously consented to permit the congregation to utilize area school facilities for church school and/or services until such time as the reconstruction period can be achieved. The Rev. Mr. Doyle noted that church officials hope to have plans completed for resumption of church school classes and other associated program meeting places determined by sometime next week.

Temporary church offices have been established in the lower level, south corridor of the Meadows Shopping Center, immediately to the east of the Vigo County Public Library branch. The telephone number listed in the directory is still current, a sub-phone having also been installed in the front of the sanctuary last Tuesday.

Monday, members got an assist from the Terre Haute Fire Department in pumping water out of the church basement and workmen immediately set about overhauling the heating plant to serve the sanctuary.

The interior carpets and pew cushions were also cleaned and members of the congregation were scheduled to gather Friday afternoon to scrub down the entire sanctuary walls, floors, pews and other furniture preparatory to the Sunday service.

The Rev. Mr. Doyle's entire accumulation of reference books, sermon notes and work material were destroyed along

with his preparations for Sunday's message.

+ + +

Asked what he planned to discuss "NOW", the Rev. Mr. Doyle referred to the deeply evident spiritual strength of the nearly 1,100-member congregation and the way they have rallied to begin replacement of the five-year-old church property, with:

"My text for this Sunday will be taken from the 16th chapter of the Gospel of St. Matthew where our Lord noted the faith evident in the declaration of Peter that 'Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God'. It will be Christ's answer: 'Upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it'."

The chancel choir, directed by Dr. Ramon Meyer and accompanied at the organ by Mrs. Ramon Meyer will sing two challenging anthems, having met for practice this week at the Meyer's residence.

The School of Missions, planned for the four Sunday evenings of February, have been postponed until a later date, the Rev. Mr. Doyle advised. Other pertinent information concerning the beginning of reconstruction, substitute meeting facilities and such will be forthcoming for a meeting of the church's Council on Ministries which will meet Monday evening.

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Community Affairs File

S FEB 3 1973

Churches (T. H.) Community Affairs File



MOP BRIGADE INVADERS FIRE DAMAGED CHURCH—
Despite the disastrous fire which this week destroyed the educational, social and office facilities of the Memorial United Methodist Church,

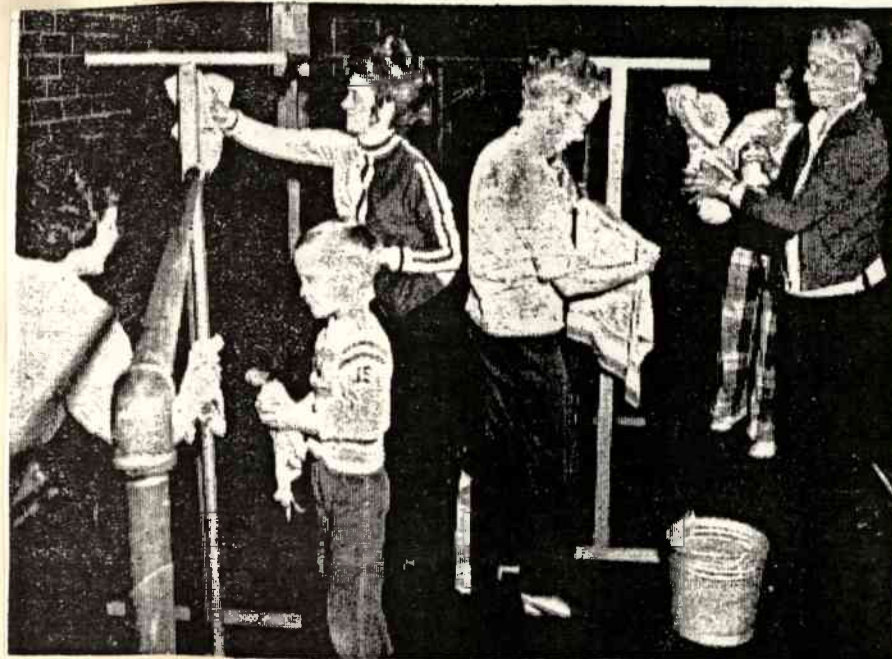
2701 Poplar St., the congregation will be able to worship as usual in the sanctuary, thanks to work and efforts of many parishioners who invaded the area Friday to complete cleanup

operations. Almost miraculously, the sanctuary and narthex were untouched by the 2-alarm fire, but there was heavy smoke and water damage. The church pastor, the Rev. Willard J.

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Doyle, says Sunday School classes will not be conducted Sunday, but the congregation will worship as usual. "The response from the congregation and the community has been overwhelming," he said. (Photos by Kadel)

Editorials

—"I may disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it."—Voltaire.

Community Affairs File Fire Spotlights Church's Spiritual Strength

Churches (T.H.) T FEB 3 1973

We're impressed by the fact that there will be a worship service as usual at 9:30 a.m. Sunday in the sanctuary of the 1,100-member Memorial United Methodist Church at 2701 Poplar St.

Despite the disastrous fire this week that destroyed the educational, social and office facilities of the \$800,000 structure, the congregation went to work immediately to get the sanctuary's heating system working for Sunday's regular morning worship service. The sanctuary and the Narthex are the only parts of the structure still standing.

Those efforts to have services Sunday in the sanctuary have gained the church the respect of the entire Terre Haute community. And it's encouraging to note that the community responded in the church's time of need.

For example, the board of trustees of the Vigo County School Corp. (VCSC) immediately offered to permit the church to utilize area school facilities.

At the Meadows Shopping Center, the hospitality room has been made available as nursery quarters for the church.

In another act of community cooperation, Mayor William J. (Bill) Brighton and Fire Chief LeRoy Shipley dispatched firemen back to the church to pump water out of the church basement so the sanctuary's heating system could be repaired.

Looking ahead to Sunday's worship service, the Rev. Willard J. Doyle, pastor of the church, says his text will be taken from the 16th chapter of the Gospel of St. Matthew, where the Lord noted the faith evident in the declaration of Peter that "Thou are the Christ, the Son of the Living God."

Then, Christ's answer follows:

"Upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

There's no way you can keep a strong, vibrant congregation like the Memorial United Methodist Church down long.

This recent week of scrubbing sanctuary walls, pews and other furniture to get ready for Sunday's service is just one indication of their strength.

We salute members of the church congregation for their display of spiritual strength at this difficult time, and we tip our hat to those in the community who have provided them as much assistance.

Community Affairs File

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VIGO COUNTY RECORD
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

Church Approves Rebuilding Plans

T JUL 6 1973

Reconstruction of the burned-out educational wing, offices and social areas of the Memorial United Methodist Church began this week at 2901 Poplar St. More than 300 members of the more-than-1,000 membership having met last Sunday and approved the rebuilding plans, according to the pastor, the Rev. Willard J. Doyle.

Simultaneously, the congregation announced plans for consecration of a new church parsonage this Sunday at 273 Terre Vista Drive.

An open house will be held from 2 p.m. until 5 o'clock with the Rev. Charles DuMond, superintendent of the Terre Haute District of the Indiana Area of The United Methodist Church, directing the consecration service at 3 o'clock.

The event will also serve as the congregation's official reception for the return of Rev. Doyle, senior pastor, and the Rev. Robert Coleman, associate pastor, for another year under the Indiana Area denominational appointment system.

They and their wives will be honored and the congregation welcomes the participation of all membership, friends and Terre Vista neighbors. Members of the pastor-parish relations commission and the trustees commission and their wives or husbands will serve as official hosts and hostesses.

In last Sunday's building plans approval meeting conducted by the Rev. DuMond, the congregation officially approved design-build plans submitted by the Marsh, Inc. firm headed by architect Shelton Hannig with a cost not to exceed \$419,698. Approval was given for the work to begin immediately.

The church's educational wing, offices, fellowship hall and adjoining facilities were January and are now expected to be completely rebuilt by December, the Rev. Mr. Doyle advised.

Contents of the building, according to the insurance proof of loss were valued at \$35,414.73, excluding \$4,100 allowed for restoration of records and the personal properties of the two

ministers given a replacement value of \$500 each, resulting in a total insurance allowed replacement figure of \$380,759.24. In addition, an extra depreciation deduction of \$14,075 on the building and \$14,665.11 on the contents will be returned by the insurance company on certain replacement specifications and accomplishments dates for a possible total insurance replacement figure of \$409,499.35.

Although the design of the building will remain virtually the same, a number of changes, enlargements and fire-prevention improvements have been made. An entire new wing is being added on the east representing a full reliaization of the church property as originally planned but curtailed due to the extreme indebtedness when the church was originally constructed five years ago.

The inner court and garden area will be built into large areas for library, music room and classroom areas and a redesigning of the fellowship hall, kitchen, storage space and various entrances have been incorporated in the new plans.

Additional toilet facilities have been added to the rooms planned for the kindergarten, toddlers and nursery areas and a great amount of consideration has been given to built-ins for handicapped members of the congregation.

The rear, southeast entrance will be accommodated by a covered two-way drive or portico for the use of individuals, particularly in inclement weather and a new driveway through from Poplar Street to the Oak Street parking lot is also being considered, according to Vernon Hux and Ralph Shiflet, co-chairmen of the building committee.

Other members of the committee are John Hockett, John Ennis, Mrs. William Hamrick, Jr., Dr. Ramon Meyer, Frank Sibrel and Esten Fuson.

Serving as ex-officio members are the Rev. Doyle and Coleman and Mrs. Jerry Worstelt, president of the United Methodist Women's organization, with Jess Williams, Hal Gardner and Mrs. Howard Turner in charge of public relations.

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Local Church Plans Rebuilding Projects

Churches (T.H.)

Community Affairs File

T MAY 18 1973

The congregation of the Memorial United Methodist Church at 2701 Poplar St. will hold a tent sale June 2 on the church parking lot which opens on Oak St., according to the pastor, the Rev. Willard J. Doyle.

The sale will begin at 10 a.m. and continue through 4 p.m. with women of the church's United Methodist Women directing the planing in cooperation with all classes of the church, the United Methodist Men's organization and the Junior and Senior High United Methodist Fellowships.

All proceeds from the sale will be used to furnish the kitchen area of the five-year-old church

property which is now in the process of being rebuilt following the late January fire which destroyed all of the church property save the sanctuary.

Last week, workmen began removing the debris and preliminary plans are already being drawn with final plans expected to be submitted to the congregation sometime next month for scrutiny and approval, according to Vern Hux and Ralph Shiflet, co-chairmen of the rebuilding program.

The huge tent offering is expected to include used furniture, appliances, clothing, toys, records, books, white elephants and an afternoon auction wherein sundry items will be

placed on the block for the highest bidder.

Also, there will be a country store, garden department and booths offering handicraft, knitted articles, home-made cookies, pies, cakes and noodles, and also a sandwich and refreshments counter.

Hundreds of individuals will staff the various booths and join in the labor of compiling the wares and articles being donated by the more-than-1,000-member congregation.

The general planning committee, named by UMW president Mrs. Jerry Worstall, is headed by Mrs. Jess Shively and Mrs. Hal Gardner as co-chairmen.

They are being assisted by the following segment chairmen and co-chairmen: food and country store, Mrs. Pearl Rowell and Mrs. James Gibbons; Mrs. Gardner and Mrs. Denis Johnson, boutique; Mrs. Lee Brown, auction; Mrs. Charles C. Rogers and Mrs. Ralph Miller, garden; Mrs. Millard Turner, clothing; Mrs. John aTylor and Mrs. Kent Pershing, toys; Mrs. Von Miller and Mrs. Gilbert Thomas, housewares and linens, and Mrs. Worstall and Mrs. Shively, records and books.

Also, Mrs. Esten Fuson and Mrs. Vernon Hux, white elephant; Mrs. Phil Cantrell, finance; Keith Willyard, physical property; Jess Shively, security force; publicity, Mrs. R. Schacht and Mrs. Howard Turner, and clean-up, Mrs. Shively, Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Worstall in cooperation with the United Methodist Men's group headed by President Jeff Redman, the Junior UMYF led by President Brad Fuson and the Senior UMYF under the presidency of Miss Alison Legg.

Anyone having large articles to contribute to the sale offering may secure early pick-up and storage of them by calling the church office or the E. H. "Herb" Redman Jr. residence, RR 31, after 6 p.m. any weekday.

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MEMORIAL UNITED METHODISTS BEGIN REBUILDING AND REBUILDING PROJECTS

—Committee chairmen involved in the planning of a huge June 2 tent sale, to be held on the parking lot of the E. Poplar St. church and to benefit the congregation's rebuilding program now underway, include (front row from left) Mrs. John Taylor, Mrs. Esten Fuson, Mrs. Lee Brown, (center from left) Mrs. Hiram Cutler, Mrs. Dennis Johnson, Mrs. Von Miller, Mrs. Phil Cantrell, Mrs. Hal Gardner, (back from left) Mrs. James Gibbels, Mrs. P. R. Rowell, Mrs. Gilbert Thomas Jr., Mrs. Millard Turner and Mrs. Jesse Shively.

Photo by Strausburg.

Church (t.H.) Community Affairs File Rebuilding of Church Proceeds

AUG 16 1973

The rebuilding program of the fire-damaged Memorial United Church at 2701 Poplar St. is moving steadily along toward an anticipated December completion date and the congregation will institute a new season of special services in September, according to the pastor, the Rev. Willard J. Doyle.

Under the direction of Shelton

Hannig and his Marsh Inc. design-built architectural firm, the walls of a new enlargement to the burned-out educational wing, offices and narthex, plus other additions and changes, are being made to the \$650,000-plus property.

Sunday, following the regular 9:30 a.m. worship services in the sanctuary, the junior high, senior high and college-age youth will meet in the Woodrow Wilson Junior High School auditorium for a musical program.

Several groups and individual youths of the congregation will contribute to the program which, in addition to musical enjoyment, is designed as a get-acquainted-better session.

Twice each month a special program will be presented for the combined youth sessions, the Sept. 9 program to include the showing of a Christian dedication musical film, according to the Rev. Robert Coleman, associate pastor in charge of the educational segment of the church program.

The evening of Sept. 9 will initiate a new Young Adult Fellowship (beyond high school age) Group which will meet every Sunday, 7 p.m., at the parsonage in Terra Vista with Rev. and Mrs. Doyle as the sponsors.

The Sept. 9 morning worship service will be keyed to Christian Education and Promotion Day observances with the Rev. Mr. Coleman delivering the message.

Sept. 16 will be Ministry Sunday with the Rev. and Mrs. Robert Priest of 1221 S. 10th St., Mrs. Noel Cardwell of 136 S. 22nd St. and possibly Rev. and Mrs. Clarence Loveland of Paris, Ill., present as special guests.

Rev. Loveland served the former Montrose Methodist Church, a part of the merger now known as Memorial, for many years. Mrs. Cardwell is the widow of Rev. Dr. Noel Cardwell and

Rev. Priest is a retired minister of the Wisconsin conference.

Preparations are under way for the annual November Month

of Evangelists and Stewardship Sunday evening services and the chancel choir, directed by Dr. Ramon Meyer of Indiana State

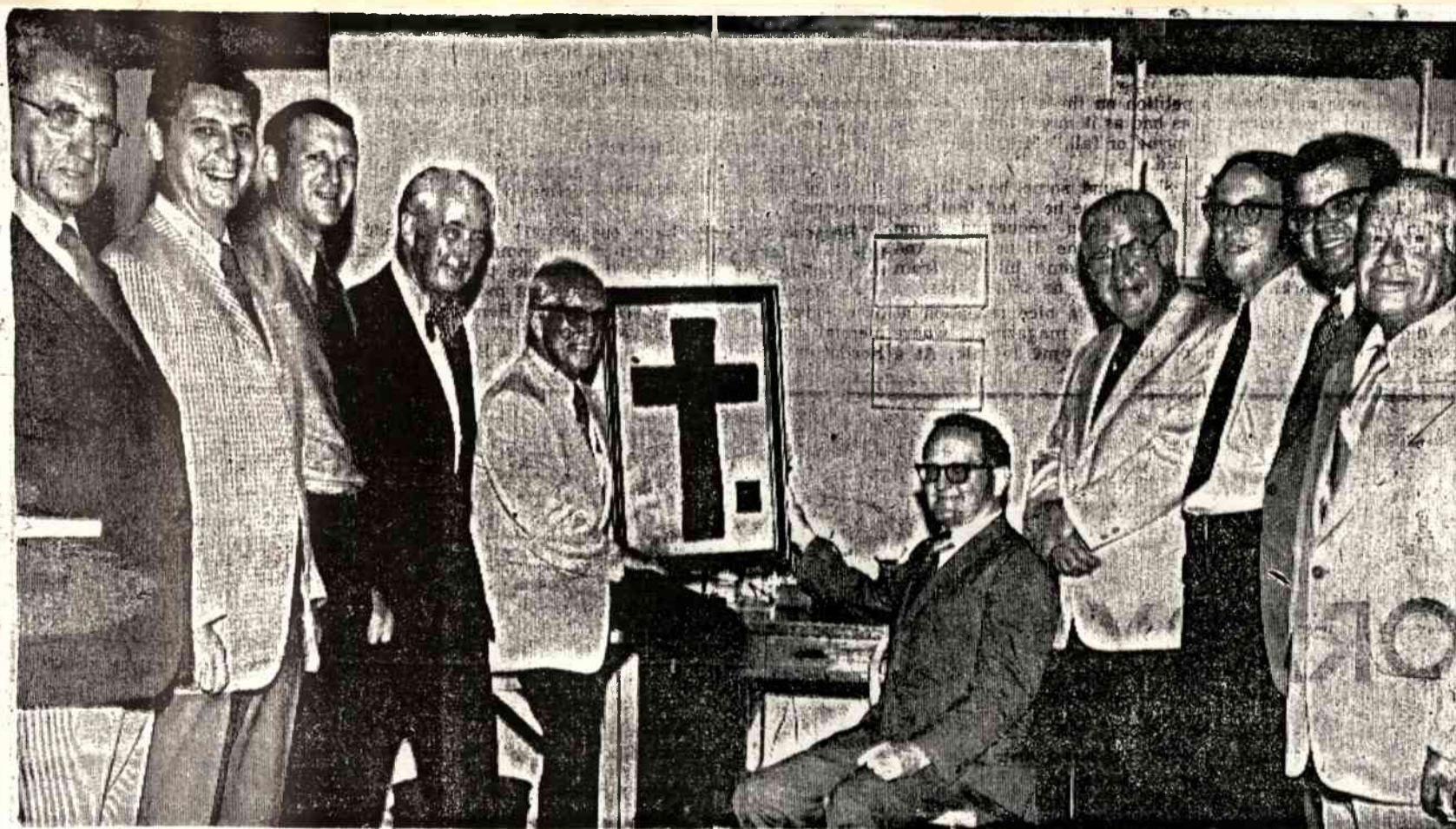
University, is making preparations for special musical presentations for Thanksgiving and Christmas Advent seasons.

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Community Affairs File



OUT OF THE FIRE CAME A CROSS — Stanton Melster (seated left) is shown presenting a framed and inscribed cross to Rev. Willard J. Doyle, pastor of the Memorial United Methodist Church, which Mr. Melster constructed from charred beams taken out from the ruins of the fire which destroyed the church's educational facilities, social areas, offices and Narthex last January. The church is presently under reconstruction. The partially burned deacon's and elder's licenses of Rev. Doyle were also salvaged from the ruins, mounjed on, special plaques and presented to him by Dr.

and Mrs. Charles C. Rogers of 4016 College Ave. Witnessing the cross presentation are (from left) Warren Collins, Pastoral Parish Relations Commission chairman; Carl Putnam, lay leader; John Ennis, Building Committee member; Ralph Shiflet, Building Committee co-chairman; Rev. Robert Coleman, associate pastor; John Hockett, Trustees Commission chairman and Building Committee member, and Frank Sihrel, Building Committee member.

Photo by Strausberg.

Rebuilding Church Nearing Completion After Fire

TS DEC 2 1973

Rebuilding operations at the 2701 Poplar St. location of the Memorial United Methodist Church, site of a costly fire last January, is fast nearing completion with the now completed office segment expected to be occupied by Wednesday.

The pastor, the Rev. Willard J. Doyle, stated this week that office furnishings have arrived and are in the process of being installed by the Marsh Inc. engineering-building firm of Shelton Hannig.

The target date for completion of the entire burned-out and enlarged educational, social and narthex areas has been moved up from February to the latter part of December or early January, Rev. Doyle noted.

Although the congregation will now occupy the entire church facilities within an estimated year from the original destruction, the consecration

of the new church property will not be officially held until Feb. 24.

At that time, Bishop Ralph T. Alton, resident head of the Indiana Area, The United Methodist Church, will come from Indianapolis to officially accomplish the consecration. Details for the service will be announced later as planned by Rev. Doyle, assisted by the church's associate pastor, Rev. Robert Coleman.

Sunday morning at 9:30 o'clock, the congregation will enter into the first service of the Advent Season. It will be continued each Sunday morning during the month with the lighting of a candle in the Advent Wreath by acolyte Miss Terri Vaughn.

The wreath lighting will be climaxed Christmas eve when the large center candle will be lighted in a midnight worship service denoting the birth of the Christ Child.

During the candle lighting, Mrs. Ramon Meyer, church organist, will softly play Green-sleeves' anthem "What Child Is This" on a celesta, a keyboard instrument musically entwined from steel plates struck by hammers.

The altar will have its traditional setting of white flowers, white doves and white lighted evergreens designed and constructed by Mrs. John Ennis.

Rev. Doyle's sermon will also be devoted to the "What Child Is This" theme and the chancel choir under the direction of Dr. Ramon Meyer will sing "Thou Must Leave Thy Lowly Dwelling," by Berlinz.

Others who will participate in Sunday's order of worship are: Acolytes—the Misses Mika Nasser and Evie Severyn; greeters—Mr. and Mrs. Russell Hayhurst and Rhonda. Mr. and Mrs. Pearl Rowell, and ushers—John H. Turner, Gary Acree, Stanton Meister, Jeff Redman, Terry Lucas, Elton Cantrell and Richard Bidwell.

Community Affairs File

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Church Plans To Replace Fire Loss

T APR 20 1973

Preliminary plans for the rebuilding of the Memorial United Methodist Church's burned-out educational facilities, fellowship center, office and narthex at 2701 Poular St. are under consideration by the building committee, according to Ralph D. Shiflet and Vernon Hux, committee co-chairmen.

Meanwhile, the pastor, the Rev. Willard J. Doyle, advised that the traditionally large crowds of Easter worshippers will again be accommodated by two identical services this Sunday, 9 and 11 a.m., in the sanctuary, the only area of the church property not damaged by the late-January fire.

Church school classes continue to be held each Sunday in the Woodrow Wilson Junior High School, the Meadows Center hospitality room in nearby homes of several parishioners.

All choirs of the church — chancel, junior, youth and cherub — will appear in special songs during both Sunday services.

The rebuilding program is presently awaiting a report from the Associated Adjusters Inc., representative of the church and which is presently negotiating a cash settlement of the fire loss with the Insurance Adjustment Bureau which represents the insurance company.

As soon as the loss and cash settlement has been determined, a meeting of the entire congregation will be called to air the proposed rebuilding plans. Shiflet advised, hopefully in the very near future.

Shelton Hannig, Inc., contractors of Terre Haute, has been employed to rebuild the structure on a design-build basis and has already submitted preliminary sketches. A number of alterations in the original design have been recommended by various commissions and individ-

uals of the church to make it even more functional than before.

As soon as the negotiations are complete, the removal of debris will begin and definite planning can be considered, Mr. Shiflet noted. A section of classrooms and attendant facilities, dropped from the original plans due to the initial financial obligation, is hoped to be included in the rebuilding to serve the continually growing church school program of the congregation which now numbers more than 1,100.

In preparation for the furnishing of the kitchen area in the rebuilding program, a miscellaneous sale of used articles of all kinds will be held on the church's Oak Street parking lot June 2 from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.

It will be a church-wide effort with the United Methodist Women's organization in charge of the planning. On the general arrangements committee are Mrs. Jesse Shively, UMW president, Mrs. Jerry Worstall, Mrs. Hal Gardner, Mrs. James Gibbons, Mrs. Dennis Johnson and Mrs. Hiram Cutler.

Stocks are presently being compiled and are being made ready by various committees and in the homes of congregation members, Mrs. Shively advised. She added that individuals having large articles to donate such as furniture and appliances, who might need to get them moved prior to the sale date, may call E. H. "Herb" Redman after 6 p.m. any day and arrangements will be made for their pick-up and storage.

All proceeds from the sale will be used in the refurbishing of the kitchen, according to the church pastor, the Rev. Mr. Doyle.

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JAN 30 1973
Community Affairs File

Probe Cause Of \$350,000

Church Fire Churches (T.H.)

Fire department inspectors Tuesday continued to sift through the rubble at the Memorial United Methodist Church, 2701 Poplar St., which sustained damage amounting to \$350,000 in a two-alarm fire late Sunday night.

Inspectors are attempting to determine the cause of the blaze that gutted the east and west wings of the five-year-old church which is valued at \$800,000.

Asst. Fire Chief Ron Nicoson late Monday afternoon said that pinpointing the exact cause might be difficult if not impossible due to the complete destruction. Only the church sanctuary was saved by firemen who battled the blaze throughout the night in near zero temperature weather.

One of the city's newest and largest churches, it has a membership of nearly 1,100 persons.

Rev. Willard J. Doyle, the church's pastor, says the congregation is anything but discouraged by the tragedy which struck shortly before the close of the final Lord's Day in January.

"I'm absolutely thrilled and certainly encouraged by the spirit of the congregation," he said late Monday. "There has been a solid show of unity on the part of the congregation in response to the tragedy.

"And there has been an unbelievable surge of support from other churches offering facilities and other help," he continued, adding that offers of aid have come from all segments of the community.

In response to a request from church officials, the Vigo County School Board Monday night authorized the use of nearby Woodrow Wilson Junior High School by the congregation in the event that it is needed.

Rev. Doyle expressed appreciation to the School Board for their willingness to permit his congregation to use Woodrow Wilson School. He and church officials had a long day Monday as they assessed the situation and began to make plans for the future. They are working toward conducting the 9:30 a.m. Sunday worship service in the sanctuary, which almost miraculously sustained only water and smoke damage.

"If we do get into the sanctuary for the worship service, we'll probably conduct some of the church school activities in the Woodrow Wilson auditorium," Rev. Doyle said.

The congregation numbers 1,080, and the average attendance during the past year has been about 600.

The Rev. Mr. Doyle said Monday the heating unit of the church was apparently not seriously damaged by fire, and he indicated work has already begun to restore the furnace and lighting in the undamaged portion.

In a similar positive vein he said church leaders anticipate no difficulties in rebuilding the portion of the building destroyed by the blaze. That evaluation, he said, was made after meeting with insurance representatives and officials of the Merchant's National Bank Monday.

In addition to the loss of the extensive educational and dining facilities, the church records and office area were destroyed. But those, for the most part can eventually be replaced.

What cannot be replaced is the sermons and other personal belongings Pastor Doyle had accumulated during a ministerial career spanning more than 30 years. His library and sermon notes went up in the flames.

The church treasurer, William Rector, may be responsible for one bright note in the rather bleak present, however. He has maintained an updated directory of the entire church membership through the years, and that will probably serve as a basis for beginning the church records anew.

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ours— SP. Oct 16 1976

MUM Churches (T.H.)

The national recognition of Memorial United Methodist Church as "congregation of the year" by Guidepost Magazine is something all Terre Hauteans should take pride in.

The remarkable story of the recovery of this church following a disastrous fire in 1973 is more typical of the real Terre Haute than absentee voting scandals, grand jury investigations, and corrupt practices.

The real strength of this community is with people like the members of Memorial United Methodist whose energies in rebuilding the church and activating their congregation reflects the strong fiber of which Terre Haute is made.

The success of this one church could be extended to the whole community if and when people like those at Memorial United Methodist decide to do something about it. That also will be a proud day for this community, just as last Sunday was for that church.

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Memorial United Methodist



Interior: Memorial United Methodist Church.

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TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

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Good News—

Memorial United Methodist Church Is Rebuilt After Devastating Fire

JAN 25 1974

By JESS M. WILLIAMS
Assistant Editor, The Star

Member, Memorial United Methodist Church

No, God did not Will one of His houses be engulfed by flames, — but yes, He did Will that its members be inspired to rebuild.

And this they did.

Though the beautiful sanctuary of Memorial United Methodist Church, 2701 Poplar St., was miraculously spared with minor damage, and no life was lost, the tragic gutted all the physical facilities of the church with the exception of the sanctuary and part of the narthex.

It was a windy, cold Sunday night about 11 p.m., when a fire

Several hundred persons

including members of the church, had to stand by helplessly while fire-fighters tried to contain the blaze. Many wept — wondering what fate God had wrought. Some undoubtedly, tearfully thought and silently prayed, "Oh my God, what have we done to deserve this?"

As parts of the flaming roof caved in and rooms of furniture, learning materials and records were destroyed many persons at the scene were visibly shaken.

But, the unbearable hot flames that twisted steel and changed wood to ashes, were evidently not strong enough to

destroy God's Love and Will for the church and the community. When the wind fanned, fast-spreading flames were finally extinguished by hard-working firemen, another flame was enlarged and brightened from banked small sparks of compassion and brotherly love.

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It is believed that most citizens of Terre Haute and the Terre Haute area, who had knowledge of the fire, shared in compassionate feelings and

See GOOD NEWS

On Page 7, Column 2



REBUILDING COMPLETED — Shown from the Oak St. and parking-lot entrance is the newly rebuilt educational facilities of the Memorial United Methodist Church, 2701 Poplar St. About three-

fourths of the church facilities was destroyed by fire Jan. 28, 1973. Shown waving are Rev. Willard J. Doyle, senior minister and Rev. Robert Coleman, associate minister. (Photo by Kadel)

Churches W
Meth. Hse.

Church^(CH) to honor its teachers

T MAY 8 1978

The congregation of the Memorial United Methodist Church, 2701 Poplar St., will observe "Church School Teacher Recognition Day" Sunday, during the 9 and 11 a.m. worship services, according to the Rev. Dr. Wm. T. (Ted) Murphy, senior pastor.

The Rev. Joseph N. Easley, associate pastor in charge of the educational program, will deliver the morning messages with Dr. Murphy in charge of the order of worship.

Participating in the recognition service will be Dr. David Waterman, commission on education chairman and Dr. Eldon Rebhorn, church school superintendent.

Among those to be honored are Juanita Kriebel, church school secretary; Marilyn Rebhorn, Karen Perry, Mary Ward, Jim and Vicki Bailey, Marsha McCool, Lucy Smith, Dixie Knust, Jean Kauffman, Joe Salisbury, Hazel Sibrel, Janet Gardner, Barbara Nico-

sin, Vicki Briggs, Carole Shassere, Connie Harris, Becky Bough, Sally Hamrick, Susan Smith, Connie Smith, Freda Sparks, Estal Angstadt, Jean Severyn, Mary Ann Hux, Becky Hux, Carolyn Diss, Shirley Waterman, Kay Williams and Linda Barrows.

Also, Mary Claire Hamrick, Mary Ward, Joan Murphy, Shirley Lenz, Norma Fuson, Betty Meyer, Rosemary Pinson, Bill and Marilyn Lindstaedt, Harry and Anne Louise Shetter, Paul Mausel, Patti Easley, Herb Bailey, Charles and Elaine Seitz, Jim and Karen Chesterson, Jack Hutson, Jon Nicosin, Dennis Johnson, Danny Lenz, Clara Jane Bidwell, Violet Gibbens, Doris Monday, Marvin Carmony, Shirley Shively, Alan and Nancy McGee, Stewart and Kathy Husted, Jim Kindraka, Bob Sandberg, Don Hagness, Leroy Mason, Laura Fasig, Mae Louise Cardwell and Joann Ridenour.

Community Affairs File

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Vigo County Public Library

Bishop Alton

Here on Sunday

FEB 23 1974

Bishop Ralph T. Alton, the resident head of the United Methodist Church of the Indiana Area, will deliver the morning worship service at 9:30 a.m., Sunday at the Memorial United Methodist Church, 2701 Poplar St.

Bishop Alton will deliver a sermon with the theme of "Fire in the Church." Following his sermon he will conduct a reconsecration service of the church facilities that were restored following a disastrous fire in January of last year.

Announcement of Bishop Alton's appearance was made by the Rev. Willard J. Doyle, pastor of the eastside church.

Also participating in the morning service will be the Rev. Dr. Charles DuMond, superintendent of the Terre Haute District of the denomination along with the Rev. Mr. Doyle and the Rev. Robert P. Coleman, associate pastor.

In the musical segment of the service, the chancel choir will sing "Christ: Foundation, Head and Cornerstone" by Lloyd Pfautsch. The organ accompaniment will be further enhanced by a brass ensemble composed of trumpeters Dalvin Boone, Randy Mithoefer and Andy Norman and trombonists Melvin Carpenter and Mike Adams.

Participating in the reconsecration service will be Ralph Shiflet and Vernon Hux, co-chairman of the rebuilding and refurbishing committee, and John Hockett, chairman of the board of trustees.

Immediately following the worship service, a reception will be held in the church's Fellowship Hall in which members and friends of the congregation will have an opportunity to personally meet with Bishop and Mrs. Alton, Dr. and Mrs. DuMond and other visiting dignitaries.

Refreshments will be served by the United Methodist Women headed by Mrs. Jess Shively, president, with Mrs. Lee Brown and Miss Clarice Rector serving as co-chairmen of the arrangements committee.

Bishop and Mrs. Alton recently returned from a mission trip to South America. Both are natives of Ohio where they served many years and came to Indiana in 1972 from Wisconsin where he also served as bishop of that state's United Methodist churches.

He has served on the denomination's international UMCOR (United Methodist Committee for Overseas Relief) and the Judicial Council (reserve), the U.S. General Board of the National Council of Churches and the World Council of Churches central committee.

He is a member of the governing boards of DePauw University, Evansville University, Indiana Central College, United Theological Seminary and the Methodist Hospital of Indiana at Indianapolis.

His Hoosier jurisdiction involves more than 1,400 churches with memberships totaling some 370,000 persons.

Sunday evening the fourth and concluding "Month of Missions" program will begin at 5:30 o'clock and continue through 8 p.m. Class study will be held at the outset with a 6:30 coffee break prior to the 7 p.m. program.

Guest speaker for the culminating program will be Miss Maisie Doyle, resident of north Georgia and a World Gospel Missions missionary to the Kenya, Africa foreign service field for more than 20 years prior to her retirement last year.

She is the sister of the Rev. Mr. Doyle and will discuss various observations and experiences of her missionary life, illustrating her remarks with lantern slides depicting the lush, green countryside of Kenya and its people.

Her presentation will be an extension and different account to that given Thursday at a meeting of the church's United organization, the Rev. Mr. Doyle noted.

Miss Doyle told the UMW group that Christianity has made a great difference in improving the life-style and spiritual well-being of the residents although many still cling to their age-old heathen practices which often cripple them for life or leave them mentally shattered from ritual superstitions.

Cattle still is the African's most priceless possession, she related, although in recent years the giving of cash along with cattle has become a common practice in securing a chosen wife or which an African man of Kenya may have several.

Tea has become the main land crop with the growing of banana, orange and other fruit trees and several vegetables found to be productive in the high, adequate rainfall elevation.

Memorial United Methodists Schedule Special 'Thanks Terre Haute' Sunday

8 JAN 25 1974

Members of Memorial United Methodist Church, 2701 Poplar St., have chosen Sunday, Jan. 27 for a special "Thanks Terre Haute" tribute.

Rev. Willard J. Doyle, senior minister at the church made the announcement and said, "The service and special activities are planned to help thank all individuals, churches and businesses in the Terre Haute area that helped the congregation, directly or indirectly, overcome its losses from the Jan. 28, 1973 fire that destroyed about three-fourths of the church property."

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The response from the community was so great," the Rev. Mr. Doyle exclaimed, "that the congregation experienced even greater spiritual and numerical growth."

"This will mark the first service in the now totally restored church property, and it is hoped that interested persons in every walk of life will attend and join in the day of giving thanks to God and his people for a job well done," he concluded.

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A reception in Fellowship Hall and guided tours of the rebuilt sections of church will follow the special morning worship service which begins at 9:30 a.m., according to Mrs. Herb Redman, chairman and Mrs. Jess Shively, co-chairman of the "Thanks Terre Haute" arrangements committee.

Members of the Rebuilding Committee will be on hand during the reception and tours, according to Vern Hux and Ralph Shiflet, committee co-chairmen.

Church School classes for adults and children, third-grade age and older, will not be conducted, according to Rev. Robert Coleman, associate minister.

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Special invitations have been sent to business firms, church congregations of many denominations and faiths, architects, contractors, sub-contractors, workmen, new media and government, according to the arrangements committee.

Committee members stress however, "Don't let the lack of an invitation stop anyone from joining the activities because all are wanted and welcome."

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A church-wide carry-in basket dinner and program of remembrance will be held at 6:30 p.m. Saturday in Fellowship Hall.

Entertainment will include a 20-minute program of old-fashioned harmony, both old songs and new, presented by

The Highlander Chorus from the Terre Haute Chapter of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Quartet Singing in America, Inc., under the direction of Bill Harbour. Jess Shively is in charge of the evening program planning.

The Rev. Mr. Doyle emphasized, "All planned services, fellowships and all programs of the church are open to all members of the congregation, their friends, families and other persons who might wish to join in."



THE WOMAN'S TOUCH. — Mrs. Karen Pershing, left and Mrs. Sandy K. Duggan, right, shown helping to prepare the lounge area in the rebuilt church facilities. Rev. Willard J. Doyle, minister seems pleased with the progress. (Photo by Kadel)



KINDERGARTEN. — A variety of attractive furniture and furnishings decorate the kindergarten room of the newly rebuilt educational facilities at Memorial United Methodist Church. Shown is Rev. Willard J. Doyle, enjoying the decor. (Photo by Kadel)



NEW CLASSROOMS—Rev. Robert Coleman, associate minister of Memorial United Methodist Church is shown arranging educational material in one of the just-completed church school classrooms. (Photo by Kadel)

Good News

Continued From Page 1

silent prayers for Memorial and its members.

Offers of help began pouring in from churches, officials, businesses and hundreds of individual citizens. Yes, the flames of compassion and love, which Jesus taught, were definitely fanned and evidenced during and after that not-to-be forgotten night.

Though intense heat can destroy, melt or shape most anything, it did not destroy the "trust in the Lord" beliefs of Senior Minister Rev. Willard Doyle, his associate minister Rev. Robert Coleman, the leaders and members of the church and the Terre Haute district superintendent, Rev. Dr. Charles DuMond.

The Rev. Mr. Doyle's charge, though dealt a devastating blow, would through God's Help and Leadership, rebuild.

And this they did.

Community Affairs File

Churches (T.H.)

Rev. Easley to Give First Sermon Sunday

JUL 3 1976

The Rev. Joseph Easley, recently appointed associate pastor to the Memorial United Methodist Church at 2701 Poplar St., will deliver his first sermon to the congregation Sunday, according to the Rev. Dr. Wm. T. (Ted) Murphy, senior pastor.

With the Rev. Dr. Murphy conducting the order of worship, the Rev. Mr. Easley will discuss the subject "God Calls Us." A special vocal solo will be presented by Dr. Ramon Meyers with Mrs. Meyers at the organ.

Acolytes for the 9 a.m. worship service will be Miss Kim Bidwell and Miss Emily Lindsteadt with Mr. and Mrs. James Gibbens and Dr. and Mrs. Robert Griffin and sons, Bob, Mark and Jon, serving as greeters.

A native of Clay City and a graduate (valedictorian) of Clay City High School, Rev. Easley entered the ministry from the Eighth Street United Methodist Church (formerly known as the Clay City United Brethren Church).

He attended Purdue University and graduated (cum laude) in 1969 going on to the United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio, where he graduated in 1972 with a Master of Divinity Degree.

During his seminary study, he served the Hope United Methodist Church of Dayton as a youth minister and, the last four years, has been assigned to the Indianapolis Southeast Parish, first as an associate pastor and then as a senior pastor.

In his Indianapolis appointments, he served under the Rev. Dr. Murphy, then

superintendent of the district.

He and his wife, Patti, and their children, Micah Nathaniel and Dylan Andrew have moved into the congregation's Nola Williams Parsonage at 2324 Miller Drive.

The Rev. Dr. Murphy noted that during the months of July and August the congregation will hold only one Sunday worship service (9 a.m.) However, the first Sunday in September, the worship will return to two Sunday morning services at 9 and 11 a.m.

The services are open to all as are the Church School classes which begin at 10 a.m. for

all ages. Nursery facilities are provided for infants, toddlers and pre-school age children.

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Dr. & Mrs. Peale To Honor MUM Church

Churches (T.H.)

Community Affairs File

T.H. Star 10/5/76

By JESS M. WILLIAMS

Assistant Editor, The Star

"Give God the Glory" is the title of a special service Sunday, Oct. 10, which the congregation of Memorial United Methodist Church, the community as a whole, friends and dignitaries may long remember.

The presentation of national "Guideposts" magazine Church of the Year Award to the congregation of the

See Photo on Page 7

church, 2701 Poplar St., will be highlighted by a visit to Terre Haute of Dr. and Mrs. Norman Vincent Peale, co-publishers of "Guideposts" magazine.

The congregation will receive the award for their rebuilding efforts following the devastating fire of 1973, which destroyed near three-fourths of the church facilities.

Several dignitaries will be present for the special service to honor the congregation and Dr. and Mrs. Peale.

Special guests include, Dr. and Mrs. Otis R. Bowen, governor of the State of Indiana; U.S. Representative John Myers; Terre Haute Mayor William J. Brighton; Carl Erskin, famed former pitcher for the Brooklyn Dodgers; Dr. J. Kenneth Forbes, executive assistant to the Indiana United Methodist bishop; Terre Haute district superintendent the Rev. Dr. Charles DuMond; Newcastle

district superintendent and former Memorial minister Rev. Willard J. Doyle; and Rev. Robert Coleman, minister of Centerville United Methodist Church and former associate minister of Memorial.

In addition, many local area ministers of various religions, many educators, business leaders and friends of Memorial will be present to honor the congregation and Dr. and Mrs. Peale.

Additional seating capacity is being arranged by opening the doors between the sanctuary and narthex.

Closed-circuit television will be provided on a large screen for the overflow crowd in the Fellowship Hall. Speakers will also be beamed onto the large parking lot at the rear of the church facilities.

The vast parking lot facilities of Meadows Shopping Center will be available. Police traffic and pedestrian guidance will be afforded by the Terre Haute Police Department.

Dr. and Mrs. Peale will arrive at Hulman Field Sunday evening aboard a jet commander furnished by John W. Galbreath, a Columbus, Ohio industrialist of international reputation.

Prior to coming to Terre Haute, Dr. and Mrs. Peale are to be honored with a banquet Saturday, Oct. 9, at Columbus, Ohio, followed by a parade in their honor Sunday afternoon, Oct. 10. They will then be flown to Terre Haute.



POSITIVE THINKING — Dr. Norman Vincent Peale and his wife, Ruth Stafford Peale will be in Terre Haute Sunday to present "Guideposts" magazine's highest annual award to the congregation of Memorial United Methodist Church, 2701 Poplar St., in recognition of their efforts to rebuild their church following a disastrous fire in 1973. Dr. Peale is best known for his best-selling book, "The Power of Positive Thinking." He and Mrs. Peale are shown at their home "The Hill Farm" at Pawling, N.Y. The award will be presented in a special program at 8 p.m. Sunday at the church. (Photo by Helen Marcus)

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Churches WV
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The Star, Terre Haute, Ind., Tuesday, October 5, 1976.



WELCOME TO OUR HOME — Ellen and Larry Homitsky will arrive in Terre Haute Friday in "Guideposts" magazine's new 32 foot mobile home and will park at the Meadows Center parking lot where area residents are welcome to visit them for a tour of the home and the opportunity to learn about the many activities of the magazine. The Homitsky's visit precedes the

arrival of Dr. Norman Vincent Peale and his wife who will be in Terre Haute Sunday to present "Guideposts" magazine's 1976 Church of the Year Award to the congregation of Memorial United Methodist Church, 2701 Poplar St. The mobile home will receive visitors on Friday and Saturday.

Churches (T.H.) Community Affairs File

'Circuit Riders'

Visit Memorial

Church Sunday

"Heritage Sunday," the Bicentennial observance of the Memorial United Methodist Church, will be celebrated Sunday at the 2701 Poplar St. sanctuary with a worship service structured as were those of Methodists in the days of the American colonies.

According to the Rev. Dr. William T. "Ted" Murphy, Memorial senior pastor, the service will be called "The Order of Morning Prayer," the title given it by John Wesley when he wrote it in 1784 and sent it to "the American Societies."

Wesley, founder of Methodism, was born June 17, 1703 (died 1791) at Epworth, England, the 15th of 19 children born to the Rev. Samuel Wesley Sr., a minister of the high Anglican Church of England, and his wife, Susannah. He had made a mission journey to Georgia under the invitation of General James Oglethorpe (1733).

He remained three years but his mission to the Indians failed and he returned to England in 1738 where, shortly thereafter, his Aldersgate Street experience occurred of which he wrote "I felt my heart strangely warmed."

His "borned again" experience led him through many years of evangelistic work through England, Scotland and Ireland as the acknowledged leader of the societies that grew out of "The Holy Club" which his brother, Charles, started when they were students at Oxford. It was aimed at achieving a deeper Christian experience and a life of Christian service.

Because of their systematic devotion and good works, the club members were derided with such names as "Bible Bigots," "Bible Mothers," the "Godly Club" and "Methodists." It was the latter that stuck and, though, John Wesley strived throughout his life and ministry to hold his followers to the Anglican Church, the fact that the church itself did not approve of them drove them out into open-air services and their own society groups.

A charter member of The Holy Club was George Whitefield (1714-1770), who was converted at Oxford and came to America in 1738 at Wesley's invitation to see if he could succeed where Wesley had failed. Traveling from one end of the colonies to the other, preaching and getting to know the colonists personally, Whitefield was recognized as a strong influence in the growing spirit that united the colonies in one common cause of freedom.

In 1771, Wesley sent to the Colonies one Francis Asbury who found that the ministers of the half-dozen societies were reluctant to leave their cities and he realized the hope of the spiritual movement lay in "circulation of preachers." Choosing to "show them the way," he became the first "Circuit Rider," traveling some 275,000 miles by horseback through the colonies and over frontier trails.

At the approach of the American Revolution, other missionaries left but Asbury remained and circuit riding methods of preaching continued to press ever westward as the war ended and frontiers opened.

Sunday morning, the Rev. Dr. Murphy and the Rev. Joseph Easley, Memorial associate pastor, will arrive at the eastside church on horseback, attired in clothing similar to that worn by their circuit-riding counterparts.

They will be welcomed by Memorial parishers who will also be wearing Revolutionary Day attire. Serving as official greeters will be Mr. and Mrs. Keith Willyard and their children Kent, Kelli and Kirk; Mr. and Mrs. E. H. "Herb" Redman Jr., and Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Cantrell and their children Annette, Elton and Paul Allen.

Acolytes for the 9 a.m. service will be the Misses Sandy Diss and Doris Rebhorn and ushers will be Dick Bidwell, Stan Meister, Karl Meister, Russell Jones, Brad Bough, Bill Lewis, Phil Briggs, Warren Collins and Elliott Bratt.

Since hymnals were a scarce commodity in the early American church, a system known as "lining out the hymn" was used in which hymns were previously sung line by line by a leader and then repeated by the congregation which thereby committed them to memory. Dr. Ramon Meyer, director of the Memorial Chancel Choir, will thus "line" the hymns for the congregational response.

Miss Christine Johnson will present a special vocal solo with Mrs. Ramon Meyer at the organ.

Frontier Day ministers were known for their long sermons, some lasting up to two hours, the Rev. Dr. Murphy noted. He

added, "Church history reveals that nodding worshipers were often prodded with a tickling rod." Such an instrument has been constructed by Eldon Rebhorn, Indiana State University School of Technology faculty member, and it will be displayed in the service.

The service is open to all interested persons and many of the parishers are planning to carry out the frontier clothing attire.

Following the 10 a.m. Church School classes for all ages, a basket dinner will be shared in the church's Fellowship Hall.

Another added feature of the "Heritage" planning will be the display of a number of Conference Journals of the United Brethren in Christ dating back to 1891.

The UBC was the predecessor of the Evangelical United Brethren Church, the parent denomination of the Otterbein congregation which merged with Montrose Methodist congregation in 1968 to form the Memorial church.

These will be on display in the Narthex along with some early Methodist disciplines and hymnals (the Rev. Dr. Murphy's collection) dating back to 1843.

Special efforts are being made to transport shut-in members of the congregation to the service and dinner with the United Methodist Men's group spearheading that effort.

Just as the spiritual movement that grew out of the faith witnessed by Wesley and his fellow Christian contributed to the moral fiber that strengthened the Colonists in their struggle to be free, so his work in England is credited with working a leavening affect on the discontented people and is believed to have averted a bloody revolution such as resulted in France.

Wesley preached in front of the debtor's prisons to the deprived people of the coal fields and elsewhere, calling all to assist each other in paying debts, rectifying problems and generally observing the Golden Rule. It is said that "as he called miners to clean up their bodies, there was a cleaning of their souls also."

The Terre Haute community reaped the spiritual benefit of what Wesley and Asbury fostered for, according to local historian Dorothy Clark, it is authentically recorded locally that circuit rider preachers were visiting the area as early as 1816 when the town was founded.

The fruits of their labor led to early Terre Haute Methodists accepting the site offered by the town founders for construction of a church and built there on the church that has evolved in today's United Methodist Temple congregation, U.S. 41 south.

Prior to that time there were only three Protestant churches located north of Vincennes in the early 1800s — one at Prairie Creek, built in 1816; the Little Flock Baptist Church built in 1821 at Sullivan County (now the Little Flock Cemetery southwest of Shelburn, and another built 12 miles northeast of Vincennes and north of Maria Creek in 1809.

This, then, was Methodism in the days of our nation's beginning and Terre Haute's earliest spiritual awakening, a heritage which the Memorial congregation will seek to honor Sunday as they enter into the third century of our nation's history.

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Dr. And Mrs. Norman Vincent Peale —

Community Affairs File

Two Distinguished Servants Of God And Mankind To Visit Terre Haute

S SEP 13 1976

BY JESS M. WILLIAMS
Assistant Editor, The Star

"World Book" encyclopedia describes Dr. Norman Vincent Peale as "believing that one of the main tasks of religion is to help people."

To this belief Dr. Peale and his wife, Ruth Stafford Peale, have devoted their lives.

Dr. Peale's readers, viewers and listeners number into the

See Story On Page One.

multi-millions. He is minister of Marble Collegiate Church, Fifth Avenue, New York.

Dr. and Mrs. Peale will honor the Terre Haute area with a visit Oct. 10, during which he will present the 1976

Guideposts magazine national Church of the Year Award to the congregation of Memorial United Methodist Church, 2701 Poplar St., for their rebuilding efforts during and after the devastating fire at the church in 1973.

"The Power of Positive Thinking", said to be one of the most successful books ever published, has been translated into thirty-three languages and over 5 million copies have been sold. Dr. Peale is the author of more than 20 books including, "You Can If You Think You Can," "Norman Vincent Peale's Favorite Stories of Positive Faith," "Positive Thinking For

A Time Like This" and his newest book, "The Positive Principle and How To Keep It Going." He and his wife are co-publishers of "Guideposts" magazine, an inspirational, inter-faith monthly publication with a readership of 9½ million.

Printed messages by Dr. Peale go monthly to six hundred thousand people around the world from the

Foundation For Christian Living. Over thirty million of his inspirational booklets are distributed yearly.

Dr. Peale's talks are heard weekly on television and radio stations throughout the United States. He has been featured speaker at many business, trade and sale conventions throughout the U.S. and abroad.

Dr. Peale is the recipient of many awards including Clergyman of the Year by Religious Heritage Of America, Horatio Alger Award, American Education Award, Ohio Governors Award, New York Rotary Award Of Honor, Tau Kappa Epsilon Award, Gougas Medal of Supreme Council, 33 degree Masons, Sons of the Revolution in the State of New York, and the Order of Aaron, and Honorary Chaplains Corps of the U. S. Army.

Honorary degrees conferred on Dr. Peale include Doctor of Divinity from Syracuse, Ohio Wesleyan, Duke and Central; Doctor of Humane Letters from Lafayette, Doctor of Laws from William Jewell, Hope and Brigham Young; Doctor of Literature from Jefferson Medical; Doctor of Letters from Iowa Wesleyan and Eastern Kentucky State and Doctor of Sacred Theology from Millikin.

Dr. Peale is a 33rd degree Mason, Past Imperial Chaplain of the Shrine, Grand Chaplain, Grand Lodge of the State of New York, Past Grand Prelate, Grand Encampment of Knights Templar in the U.S.A., Rotary Club of New York, Phi Gamma Delta and member of the President's Commission on the 25th Anniversary of the United Nations.

Dr. Peale is coming to Terre Haute October 10.

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Churches w/ Memorial Bldg.
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Memorial UM Church *Churches (T.H.)* Plans For Big Event

S SEP 13 1976

BY JESS M. WILLIAMS
Assistant Editor, The Star

Dr. Norman Vincent Peale will present the national "Guideposts" magazine Church of the Year Award to the congregation of Memorial United Methodist Church at 8 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 10.

During a special service at the church, 2701 Poplar St., the congregation, ministers (present and former) and the

See Stories On Page 3

community in general will be honored for their outstanding efforts in rebuilding after the devastating fire of 1973 that destroyed more than three fourths of the church facilities.

Leaders and friends of all religions, education, business, government (local, state and federal) in addition to hundreds of Memorial's friends in the Indiana-Illinois area are invited to attend. Rev. Dr. Peale will deliver a message after the award presentation.

Dr. Peale and his wife, Ruth Stafford Peale, are co-publishers of "Guideposts" magazine, a non-profit, inter-faith monthly publication that has a readership of 9½ million. A feature article about Memorial Church will appear in the November issue of "Guideposts."

Accompanying Dr. and Mrs. Peale during the special ceremonies will be Dr. Harry Peelor, director of "Guideposts" Outreach Ministries, and Van Varner, senior editor of the magazine, according to Rev. Dr. William T. Murphy, senior minister at Memorial.

"Our Church of the Year Award preparations committee, aided by all members of the congregation, is now at work making the necessary plans for the special event," Rev. Murphy continued.

Members of the committee include Vern Hux, Esten Fuson, Lois Legg, Jerri Redman, Ralph Shiflet, Euletta Turner, Rev. Joseph Easley, the Rev. Dr. Murphy and Jess Williams.

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Churches, T. H. OCT 11 1976
Memorial United Gets
Community Affairs File
Special Church Award

An overflow crowd was on hand Sunday night at Memorial United Methodist Church, 2701 Poplar St., for the presentation of the Guidepost Magazine "Church of the Year" Award to the congregation by Dr. and Mrs. Norman Vincent Peale, and to hear Dr. Peale, the internationally famous religious leader and teacher, speak on the program theme "Give God the Glory."

Present for the special service were Gov. and Mrs. Otis R. Bowen and Congressman John T. Myers.

The MUM Church was honored by Guidepost Magazine for its work in rebuilding the church that suffered some \$400,000 damage in a disastrous fire on Jan. 28, 1973. A year later, church officials and members dedicated the rebuilt structure, and conducted a dedication-day reception for members and Terre Haute citizens who contributed heavily to the rebuilding process. Only the sanctuary was spared in the late January blaze.

Dr. Peale and his wife, Ruth Stafford Peale, are joint presidents of Guideposts Foundation, and co-publishers of Guidepost Magazine.

Terre Haute Star Editor Lawrence E. Sawyer had suggested that the local church be nominated for the "Church of the Year Award" and Jess M. Williams, assistant editor of the Star, was instrumental in filing the nomination.

Many distinguished guests attended

See related photo on page 5.

the Sunday evening special service, including Dr. Kenneth Forbes, Indianapolis, administrative assistant to Bishop Ralph T. Alton, resident head of the Indiana area United Methodist Church; Dr. Charles DuMond, superintendent of the Terre Haute District, and the two pastors at MUM church at the time of the fire, Rev. Willard J. Doyle, now superintendent of the New Castle District, and Rev. Robert Coleman, former associate pastor.

Advance copies of the November issue of Guidepost Magazine, featuring the story of the rebuilding of the MUM church, were given to those attending both morning and evening services Sunday.

In his message, Dr. Peale told how Guidepost Magazine came into being more than 25 years ago, as a result of a dinner discussion group which included Dr. Peale, Capt. Eddie Rickenbacker, J. C. Penney, Lowell Thomas and others.

They determined that "what America needs to make it stronger" could include a "Guidepost to better living magazine," and thus it began.

Faced with bankruptcy and a dearth of subscribers to the new magazine, Dr. Peale recounted the inspiration from a woman referred to only as "Tessie" from her remarks on the invincibility of a positive attitude in relationship to God, which not only revitalized the magazine but also may have been the inspiration and guidance for Dr. Peale's most famous book, "The Power of Positive Thinking."

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ROBERT SANDBERG, right, lay leader of the congregation of Memorial United Methodist Church, had the great honor of accepting the Guidepost Magazine "Church of the Year Award" from Dr. and Mrs. Norman Vincent Peale in a special ceremony Sunday evening at the church, 2701 Poplar St. The Peales are joint presidents of Guideposts Foundation, which publishes the magazines. An overflow crowd attended the service, at which ther MUM Church congregation was honored for its efforts to rebuild the firedamaged church and rededicate the rebuilt structure just a year later.

House of Photography Photo

Peale Lauds MUM Congregation

6 OCT 12 1976

6 OCT 12 1976

By DAVID H. COX
Star Staff Writer

Hard work and unbending faith, says internationally-known author and religious teacher Dr. Norman Vincent Peale, reaps supreme benefits.

The Rev. Dr. Peale addressed more than 700 persons Sunday during an award presentation service at Terre Haute's Memorial United Methodist Church.

MUM received the coveted Guidepost Magazine Church of the Year award for rebuilding the structure after a disastrous 1973 fire that destroyed three-fourths of the church. Guidepost's award is presented annually to a church or synagogue which displays outstanding dedication of faith, according to Dr. Peale. "It is an honor for me tonight to be in this beautiful sanctuary and pay tribute to you for your faith, strength and progress in overcoming the adversity," Dr. Peale told the congregation at the outset of his sermon.

Dr. Peale, a native Ohioan, turned his sermon to the growing pains endured by Guidepost Magazine. He noted the publication, dedicated to religious teachings and exploits, almost died before it had an opportunity to develop, but through the power of faith and positive thinking created by one woman who refused to let the magazine succumb, the publication grew to more than two million circulation with readership extending to nine and a half million. Guidepost is 16th in size among all regular publications in the nation, Dr. Peale said, and is the largest religious magazine ever established.

Dr. Peale also related a story about former Olympic sprint champion Jesse Owens who began with nothing but spiritual richness and attained ultimate athletic success. Owens told Peale at a recent meeting he used a ladder of success to achieve greatness. The former Olympic star said his former

coach taught him determination, dedication, discipline and attitude were keys to success.

The visiting minister's sermon message was focused at MUM's congregational unity in rebuilding the church into one bigger and better than its predecessor. After presenting several thought-provoking statements to the worshipers, Dr. Peale and Mrs. Peale presented a large plaque to the church which was accepted by lay leader Robert Sandberg.

"Many people within the church and community are responsible," Sandberg said after accepting the plaque. "One of the most gratifying things that came out of the fire was that we experienced the love of God."

Rev. William T. Murphy, senior minister at Memorial, was in charge of the services. Others who took part in the ceremony were J. Kenneth Forbes, executive assistant to the bishop; Rev. Willard Doyle, former senior minister at

Memorial; Rev. Charles E. DuMond, New Castle district superintendent; Rev. Joseph Easley, associate minister at Memorial; Rev. Robert P. Coleman, former associate minister at Memorial; Ramon E. Meyer, music director, and Betty B. Meyer, organist.

Special guests included Vigo County School Corporation Superintendent Dr. Harmon A. Baldwin; Indiana Governor Otis R. Bowen; Indiana Seventh Congressional Representative John Myers; B. Keith Cox, secretary-treasurer, Tribune-Star Publishing Co.; Rev. Terry Hudson, pastor, Trinity Lutheran Church, and Lawrence E. Sawyer, Editor, The Terre Haute Star.

The Rev. Dr. Peale recognized Jess M. Williams, assistant editor of The Star, and member of Memorial United Methodist Church, for Williams' effort in filing a nomination with Guidepost for the award.



SPECIAL GUESTS AT MEMORIAL — Several special guests attended the Guidepost Magazine Award services Sunday at Memorial United Methodist Church. Among them were, left to right, B. Keith Cox, secretary-treasurer, Tribune-Star Publishing Co., Inc.; Indiana Seventh Congressional District Representative John Myers; Indiana Governor Otis R. Bowen;

Dr. Harmon A. Baldwin, superintendent, Vigo County School Corporation; Lawrence E. Sawyer, Editor, The Terre Haute Star, and Jess M. Williams, assistant editor, The Terre Haute Star. Williams was instrumental in securing the coveted award for the local church. (Photo by Kadel)

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Churches (T.H.)
LEADING MEMORIAL PROCESSION — Rev. William T. Murphy, left, senior minister at Memorial United Methodist Church, led the processional at the award presentation service Sunday. Dr. and Mrs. Norman Vincent Peale, right, visited

Terre Haute to give the coveted Guidepost Magazine Church of the Year award to the local congregation for rebuilding its church after a disastrous 1973 fire. (Photo by Kadel)

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Dr. Peale Gives Award To MUM Church

Churches (T.H.)

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S OCT 1 1 1976

By DAVID H. COX
Star Staff Writer

Dr. Norman Vincent Peale, internationally-known religious leader and teacher, Sunday presented Memorial United Methodist Church with the coveted Guidepost Magazine Church of the Year Award, honoring the congregation for its effort in rebuilding the church after a disastrous fire in 1973.

Only the sanctuary was spared in the Jan. 28, 1973 blaze that did an estimated \$400,000 damage. A year later, Jan. 27, 1974, church officials and members dedicated the rebuilt structure termed by some as bigger and better than the original building. The church conducted a dedication-day reception for members and Terre Haute citizens who contributed heavily to the rebuilding process.

Several distinguished guests were to have attended Sunday's services. Among them were Dr. Harmon A. Baldwin, superintendent, Vigo County School Corporation, and Mrs. Baldwin; Indiana Governor Otis R. Bowen and Mrs. Bowen; Terre Haute Mayor William J. Brighton and Mrs. Brighton; Joseph R. Cloutier, vice president, Tribune-Star Publishing Co., Inc., and Mrs. Cloutier; B. Keith Cox, secretary-treasurer,

Tribune-Star Publishing Co., Inc., and Mrs. Cox; Marsee A. Cox, Editor, The Terre Haute Tribune, and Mrs. Cox; Rev. Terre Hudson, Pastor, Trinity Lutheran Church, and Mrs. Hudson; Louis F. Keifer, President, Tribune-Star Publishing Co., Inc.; Indiana Seventh Congressional District Representative John Myers and Mrs. Myers, and Lawrence E. Sawyer, Editor, The Terre Haute Star, and Mrs. Sawyer.

Sawyer suggested MUM be nominated for the award and Jess M. Williams, assistant editor of The Star, was instrumental in filing the nomination.

Dr. Peale and his wife, Ruth Stafford Peale, are co-publishers of Guidepost Magazine, circulated throughout the world with inspirational interfaith news.

Dr. Peale, author of some 20 published books, gave the sermon for Sunday evening's service. Robert Sandberg, lay leader for Memorial United Methodist Church, was to have accepted the award for the church congregation. Rev. William T. Murphy is the MUM senior minister.

A feature story on the church's rebuilding success will appear in the November issue of Guidepost Magazine. Advance copies were given to the local congregation during both of Sunday's regular services.



WELCOME TO, TERRE HAUTE — Dr. Norman Vincent Peale and his wife, Mrs. Ruth Peale, were welcomed to Terre Haute Sunday afternoon by a delegation from Memorial United Methodist Church headed by the Rev. W. T. Murphy, left. The Peales arrived in a jet plane owned by a Columbus, Ohio industrialist. They attended a dinner prior to ceremonies at which the congregation of Memorial received "Guideposts" magazine's church of the year award from Dr. Peale. Dr. & Mrs. Peale are joint presidents of Guideposts Foundation which publishes the magazines and sponsors the annual award. (Photo by Kadel)

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Churches (W.V.)
Memorial U.M.

T.H. Churches
Bishop Here
T.H. Trib. 10/28/68
For Ceremony

Over 500 persons attended the consecration services of the new \$518,000 Memorial United Methodist Church 2701 Poplar St., Sunday.

Rev. Bishop Reuben H. Mueller, resident head of the Indiana Area United Methodist Church, conducted the consecration during the regular 9 a.m. services. Assisting him were Dr. William E. Hughes, pastor; Dr. Samuel B. Phillips, district superintendent, and John Aleshire, the congregation's youth minister.

Ralph Shiflet, building committee co-chairman, officially presented the church property and John Ennis, board of trustees chairman, presented the keys to the property to Bishop Mueller.

Special music was presented by the chancel choir under the direction of John Burd.

During the afternoon, tours were taken of the new structure.

The building replaces those formerly used by the Otterbein Evangelical United Brethren Church, 801 S. 25th St. and the former Montrose Methodist Church, 110 S. 17th St. The two congregations merged several months ago.

The new church has a maximum seating capacity of over 600 in the sanctuary, with removable walls making room for 150 more seats in the narthex. It houses nine classrooms, a large fellowship hall, kitchen, nursery, offices, parlor, restrooms and brides dressing room.

Tours of the building were conducted by Miss Marcella Boyll and members of the Senior Youth Class.

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TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

Community Affairs File

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New United Methodist Temple to Be Ready By Sept. 7

By MARY ANN PIERCE
Tribune Staff Writer

Remnants of the past will be blended into the new and modernistic design of the United Methodist Temple, nearing completion south of Terre Haute on U.S. Highway 41. Moving is expected to be completed by Sept. 7.

Several items that played an important role in the early religious life of Vigo County are being taken from the present church at 7th and Poplar Sts., and will be installed in the new building.

A bell weighing nearly 6,000 pounds, which called worshippers to Sunday services as early as 1843 when the church was known as the Asbury Church, will have its place of honor in the new structure. It will eventually be hung from a 40-foot steel tower in the center court where its pealing will call attention to a huge cross mounted above it.

A place of honor has also been reserved in the choir balcony for the church organ which dates back to 1895, the year when the present building was dedicated as the First Methodist Episcopal Church.

Leaded art glass windows admired for years by passersby traveling Poplar or 7th streets are being saved for the new church. They will be used as decorative screens accenting the interior of the building, according to a board member.

Cost Is \$500,000

The new church, built of brick veneer and laminated wood arches and beams, covers 19,150 square feet. When completely furnished it will cost approximately \$500,000, according to Vernon Fellows, a member of the board of trustees.

It is situated on the south side of Highway 41 near the Blocksom Road with its three wings facing the highway at an angle and surrounding a center court yard. The wings contain a classroom area, the nave or sanctuary area and a fellowship-kitchen area.

The sanctuary will seat approximately 400 persons. Pews

and exposed beams in the ceiling are light oak. Carpeting is red tweed and the walls are in pastels and white. Hexagonal shaped light fixtures are suspended from the ceiling. They are of antique brass with a white opal design and bits of colored acrylic are embedded in them. The acrylic matches the windows in the church which are of the same material in a variety of colors.

An adjoining chapel, measuring 14 feet by 16 feet, is also done in pastels and white accenting the light oak altar and pews. Its carpeting is in shades

of green and gold.

The entire building will be heated by gas forced air and will be completely air-conditioned.

Ample Parking Space

Ample parking space will surround the building. Parking has been a problem for the congregation in recent years at the present church.

The site of Highway 41 was selected, according to a board member, in order to serve the residents in that general area where there is no Methodist Church, he said.

Hannig and Associates were architects for the construction project.

The building on Poplar Street has been sold to an oil company. It will reportedly be torn down and a service station will be erected in its place.

The cornerstone facing 7th Street that bears the words "Asbury Church, founded in 1841" will be given to the Vigo County Historical Society. The stone was taken from the former Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church which was built at the corner of 4th and Poplar streets on a plot of land set aside by the city of Terre Haute. It was

one of three pieces of property granted by the city in 1816 — one for a church, one for the court house and one for a school.

In the first church library there were 20 bibles, 20 hymn books, 36 testaments, 24 spelling books and 50 volumes of Children's Library. In 15 years the library had grown to 1,200 volumes.

Church Library Grows

The growth of the library over the years matched the growth of the congregation and by 1889 a movement was underway to build a new church. The present site on Poplar was selected and the building was dedicated in 1895. It cost the congregation \$42,000. The new cornerstone read "First Methodist Episcopal Church."

A parsonage built at the rear of the church on the Poplar Street side in 1908 later became an educational unit for elementary children adding to the church size.

The church became known as Methodist Temple in 1929 after a merger between First Methodist and Centenary, formed in 1925, was terminated.

It carried that name for 40 years until a merger between the Evangelical United Brethren Church and the Methodist Church. At that time it became known as United Methodist Temple, according to Mrs. Dorothy Kylander, active in the present building program and a 30-year member of the church.

Moving will be completed and the first service is planned in the new church Sept. 7. Church board members and building

program committeemen will meet with the architects Aug. 15

for an official tour prior to the opening.

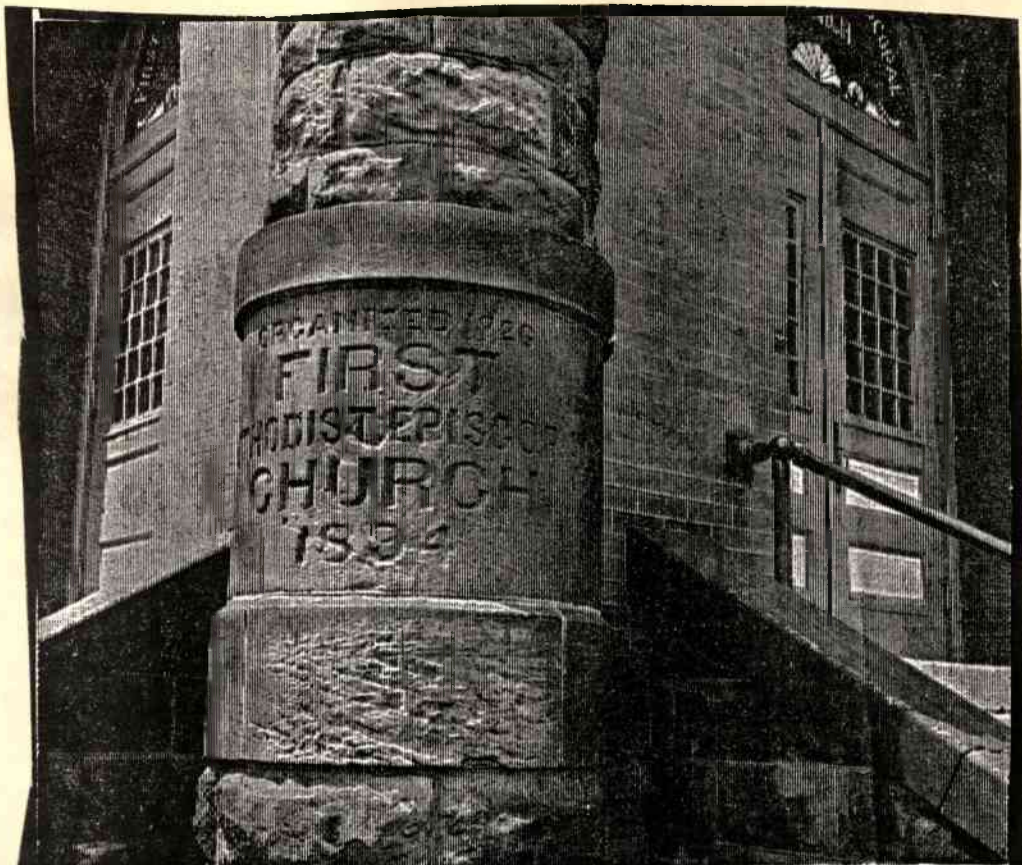
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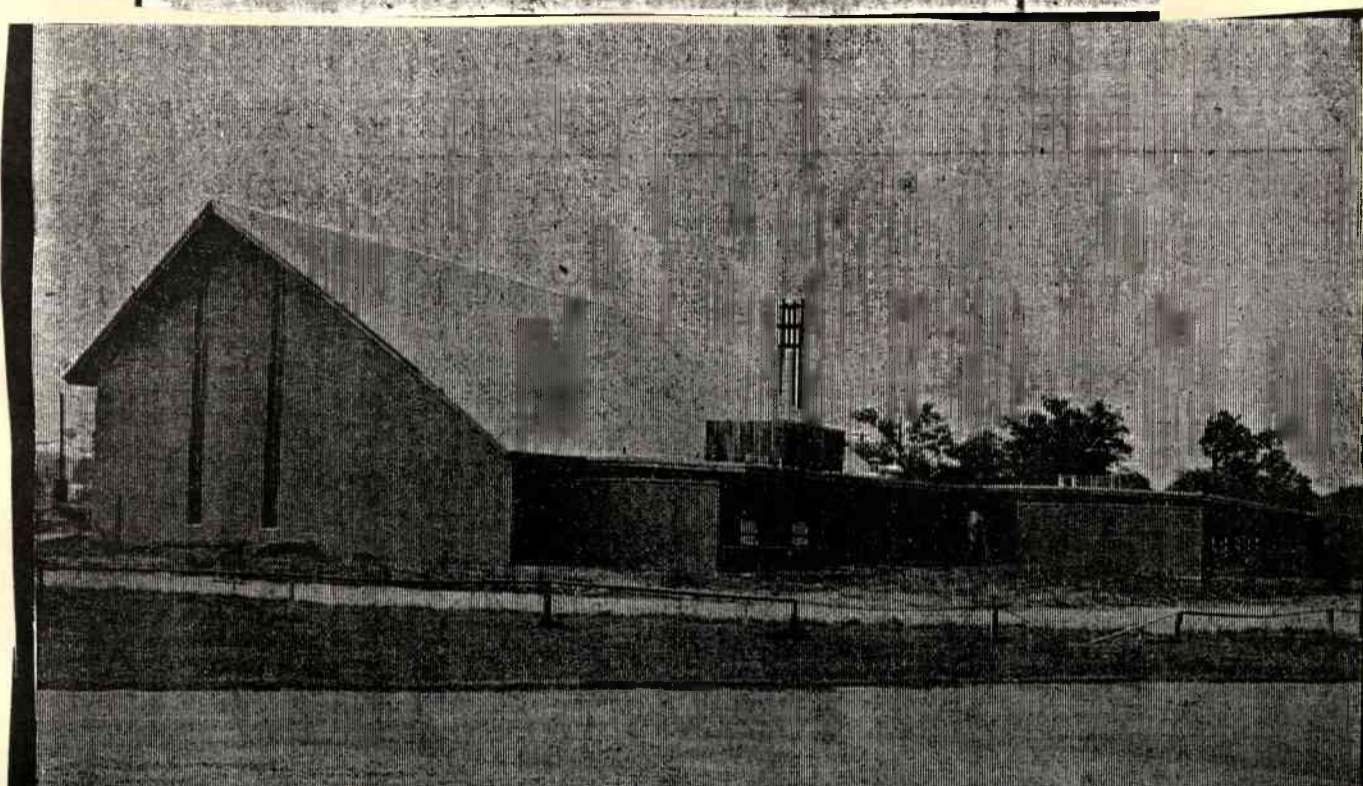
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TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

UNITED METHODIST TEMPLE - HISTORY



A LANDMARK GOES—The United Methodist Temple, a familiar building at the corner of Poplar and 7th streets since dedicated in 1895 will soon be torn down. The congregation is making plans to move into its new building on U.S. Highway 41 south of Terre Haute. The cornerstone reads "First Methodist Episcopal Church, '1894'" an earlier name for the church. Photo by Martin.



MODERNISTIC IN DESIGN — The new United Methodist Temple, located south of Terre Haute on U.S. Highway 41 near the Blocksom Road, is nearing completion. The congregation is planning to hold its first services in the building Sept. 7.

The New United

T.H. - star 12/1/68

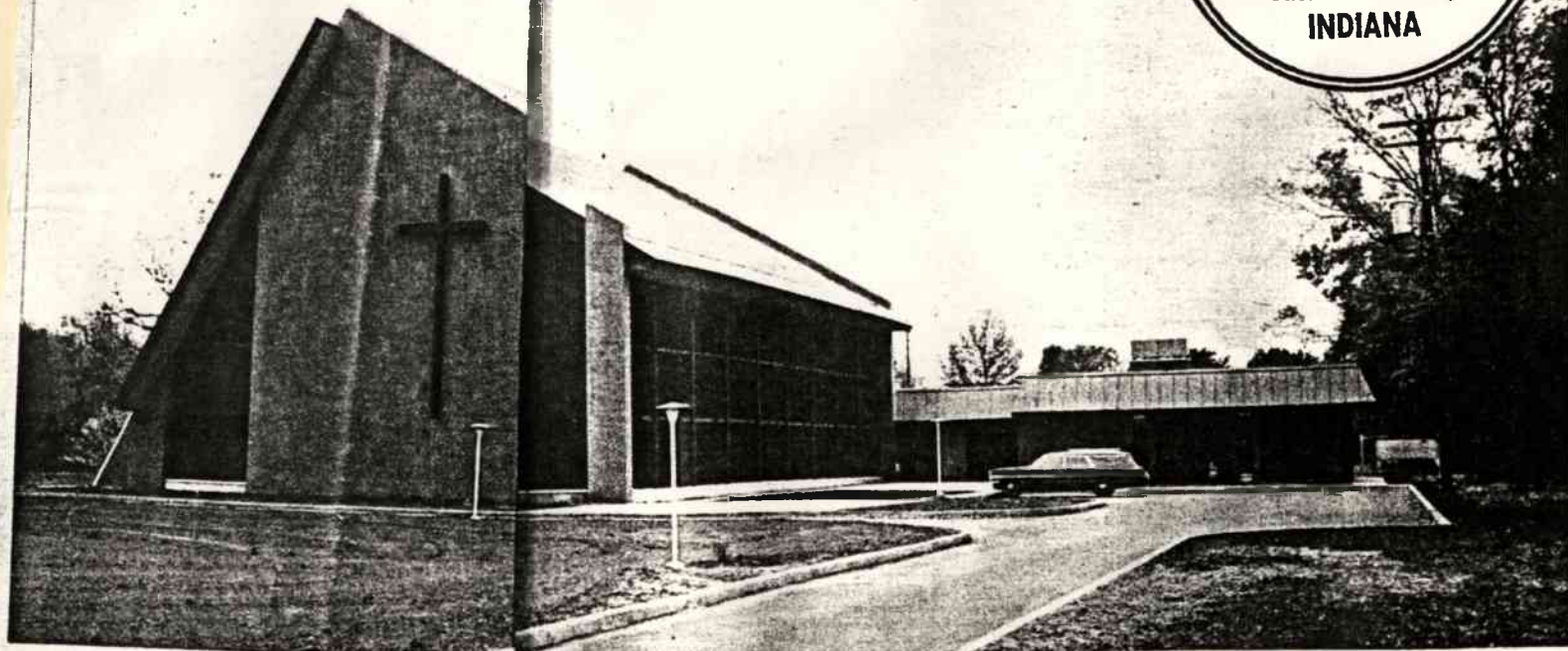
Method Church

Photos by Martin.

THE
TERRE HAUTE
TRIBUNE-STAR

December 1, 1968.

TERRE HAUTE,
INDIANA



MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

2701 Poplar Street

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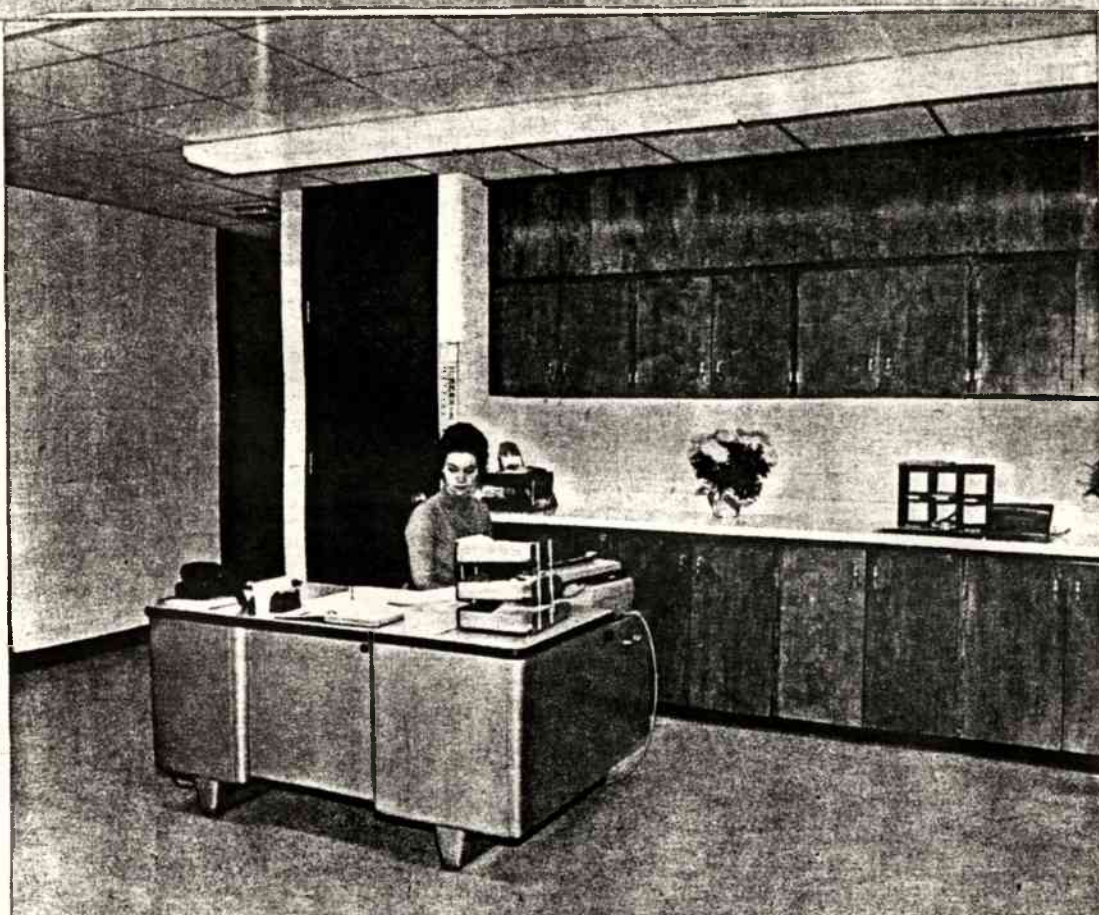
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REV. WILLIAM E. HUGHES is minister at the new Memorial United Methodist Church. He has been with the congregation for one year and five months. He is shown in the pastor's study in the new structure.

THE GENERAL OFFICE work in the new church is handled by Mrs. Duane Sinn. The room contains ample storage space for office supplies and is adjoined by a workroom.



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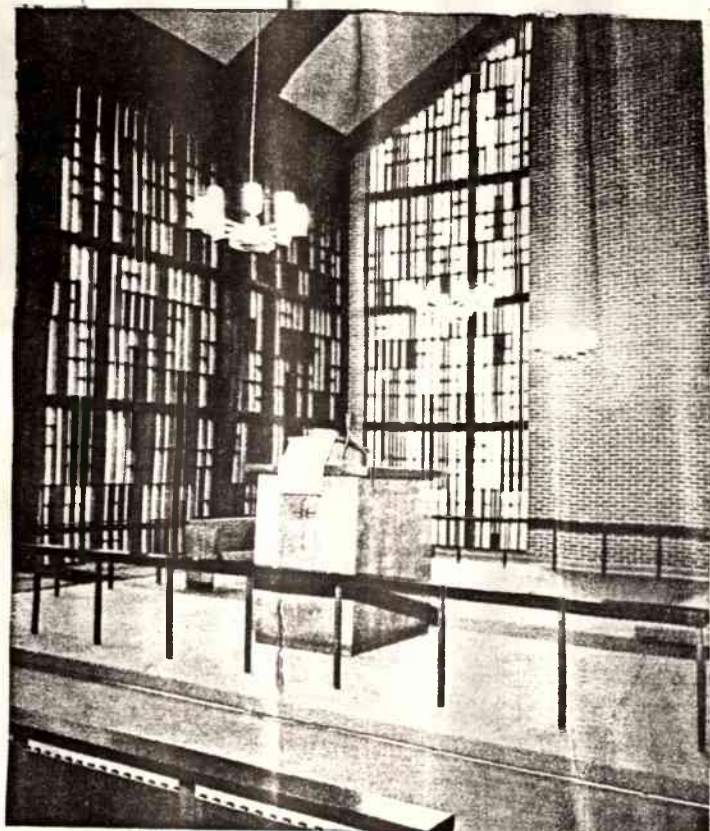
THE SANCTUARY—This room with its high-rising ceiling will seat 500 to 600 worshippers comfortably. It is done in burnt amber and gold with gold carpeting and red oak furniture.



A FULLY-EQUIPPED nursery with well-trained personnel offers a place for parents to leave their very young children while attending services. In this room, as well as all other parts of the church, heat and air-conditioning can be controlled individually.



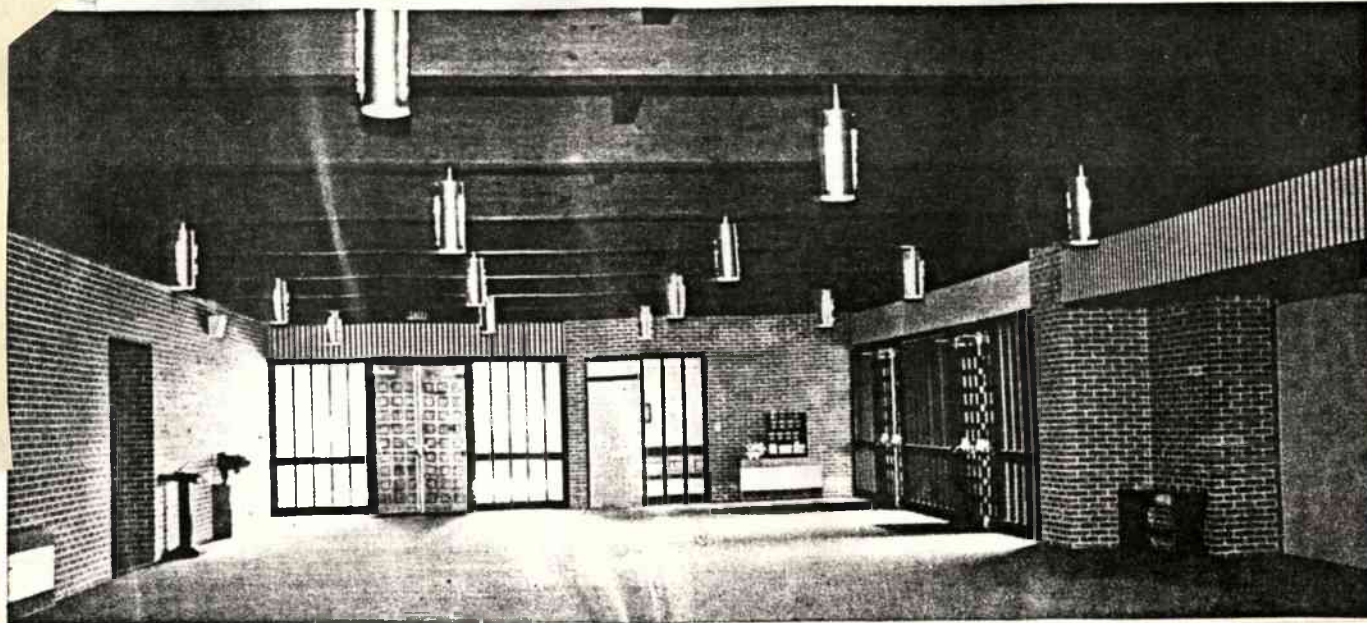
THE YOUTH LOUNGE is one of the most used rooms in the entire church. An active group of 50 junior high age youth meet evenings and Sundays in the room that provides space for recreation as well as worship. Folding doors will divide the worship area from the game room when necessary.



CONTEMPORARY LIGHTING and sunlight streaming through colored glass panes accent the pulpit area of the sanctuary. The lights are camouflages for the sound system. To the right of the pulpit (not pictured) is the section reserved for 50 choir members.

CLASSROOMS in the new building are colorful and well lighted with plenty of room for expansion of enrollment.





BURNT AMBER beams and attractive light fixtures add to the beauty of the church narthex. Three entrances lead into this area of the church, which will seat an additional 150 people if the space is needed.

Churches (CXX)

Rev. Coleman

Community Affairs File

Methodist Elder

JUN 7 1974

Rev. Robert P. Coleman, assistant to Bishop Ralph T. Al-sociate pastor of the Memorial United Methodist Church, was ordained recently as an elder in the church, the higher of the two orders of the ministry.

Rev. Coleman was among the 30 approved at the annual meeting of the South Indiana Conference of the United Methodist Church in Bloomington.

Those approved included twenty-nine men and one woman. Nine other clergy were granted retirement status.

Rev. Coleman has been at Memorial for some time, and is well known in the community. He resides at 1820 N. Center St. with his wife Joyce and daughter Christa.

Area ministers approved for ordination included Rev. John F. VanVactor III of Waveland.

Speakers at the conference, attended by more than 500 delegates, spoke of the black church, the changing church, and a financial report of budget and charitable contributions.

Rev. Joseph Lowery, board chairman of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, told the conference that the black church has something to offer the rest of Christendom in terms of human relationships and personal strength.

"The soul quality of the black experience can put flesh on the presently dry bones of human relationships," Rev. Lowery declared. "The black churches work for justice, peace, brotherhood and liberty."

In another conference address, Rev. A. Leonard Griffith, pastor of Toronto's Deer Park Church, United Church of Canada, stated, "The church may not survive in the precise form we know it today. As to the future of the church, we are asking a question about our own loyalty. But Christ can baptize every human endeavor."

United Methodists throughout Indiana, as of June 6, have contributed \$204,600 for tornado relief in the state, Rev. J. Ken-

eth Forbes of Indianapolis, reported. He reported the funds are being used for personal relief, pastoral assistance, uninsured church property damage and counseling programs.

In a report on church membership, Dr. Forbes stated there were 2,911 fewer members in 1973 than in 1972; compared with a 5,345 loss figure for the previous year. Contributions for conference budget in 1973 was \$3,570,535, compared with \$3,301,426 in 1972.

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Exhibit of Church Relics

T. H. Star
Nov. 2/40

Marks Methodist Anniversary

READERS SERVICE

T. H. Churches

VERTICAL FILE

Anna Bowles Wiley.

"One Hundred Years in the Work of the Master" is the crown symbol placed on the Methodist Temple for their one hundredth anniversary is celebrated today. To this are returning old parishioners, wives of ministers who have been gathered to their reward and ministers themselves, for the celebration will continue throughout the week until Nov. 9. Considerable effort has been expended on attractive programs and the church is itself all in festive array for the opening event.

In a side room has been arranged mementoes of the past. It must be assumed that the time intervening between now, the celebration and 100 years of years now dust, so one finds assembled among the many articles belonging to the church.

Prominent is the Bible printed in 1819 by the Clarendon Press in England and presented to Asbury Chapel by the late Col. Richard Wiggington Thompson. The Bible is printed in the old way of making the "S's" like "Fs." This Bible is 12 inches by 18 inches in size. Another Bible is there upon which the inscription is written, "Asbury Chapel Pulpit, Methodist Church, Terre Haute, 1841."

Later when it was brought over from Old Asbury to the present location, another inscription was added: "On May 26, 1895, this old book was brought over from Old Asbury to the New First Methodist Episcopal church. It has served the old church since 1841 and from which pages all the pastors and class leaders have read for 54 years. May it yet remain another half century in use."

This wish was fulfilled.

In the matter of bells, one finds that in 1843 a bell was hung in the belfry of Old Asbury. In 1895 when the new church was built the old bell was melted, more metal added and moulded into bells to be used as paper weights. Others were made with handles and clappers, which were sold to obtain money to purchase a new bell for the new church.

A few years ago a number of these paper weights were found. These have been polished, lacquer added to them and they are on exhibit. A piece of the corner stone of the old church, with "Asbury Chapel" engraved on it, is shown in this room, as are old hymn books, minus musical scores. The hymns were once lined by the lesson leader with a tuning fork.

A comprehensive Sunday School secretary's book, dated in 1867, along with quarterly records dated 1852. The first church membership roll which is very incomplete is dated 1849.

The first record of the secretary for the Women's Home Missionary Society and records of the Women's

Foreign Missionary Society for as early as 1895 are there also. There are streamers used at Epworth League conventions in early 1895 and also streamers worn at the laying of the corner stone of First Church in 1895.

Two voluntary bonds which were purchased when the First M. E. Church was built by Mr. and Mrs. Noah D. Brill, two prominent members of the church, where they gave their services for years. They are shown in the collection and a copy of the last pastoral letter sent to Old Asbury, also a copy of a letter sent at the same time to friends of the church.

There are numerous records of the various societies of the church, down through the years and a program for the dedication of the present church and of the services held during the week of that dedication and the bitter-sweet farewell to the old church, Old Asbury Chapel, the first protestant church in Terre Haute.

There are interesting scrap books made by the late Charles H. Ehrmann during the time he was superintendent of the Sunday School from 1914 to 1917. This room is well deserving of a visit from people who are parishioners, or who are citizens of any faith.

Much interesting history has revealed itself through the announcement of the 100th anniversary.

Miss Lafferty of Martinsville, after having read of this event in the Terre Haute Tribune, stated that "After I had read the names of Aaron and Moses Wood in the account, I recalled that their mother, Mary Kahn Wood, is buried in the Martinsville Cemetery. She was born in York, Pa., a daughter of Michael Kahn, son of Henry, son of Nicholas, who came to America and bought land from Thomas Penn, son of William Penn.

"Mary Kahn married William Wood, a French Huegenot. After the Revolution, William Wood was a Methodist minister. He preached my great-grandfather, John Lafferty's funeral. They had four sons, all Methodist ministers.

"One of their three daughters, Rachel, married a minister, too. I remember both Uncle Aaron and Uncle Moses, who visited us. And we have many papers and periodicals and church papers pertaining to them and their families, but the article regarding the church history was of particular interest to us."

Miss Lafferty's mother is in her 90s, but her faculties are clear and fine. Relatives of Miss Georgia Bunce and Miss Thirza, missionary, have been recalled through the history of 100 years.

Mrs. W. H. Hickman, widow of the Rev. W. H. Hickman, who is a resident of Terre Haute, sent to the church as a gift to the Woman's Society for Christian Service of the church one of the old pulpit chairs which has been in her possession for some time. The chair will be in the exhibit room.

Churches (W.V.)
Meth. Temple

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Community Affairs File



DR. CLAUDE YOUNG

5 6/9/49
**Methodist Temple
Pastor Promoted**

**Elected Secretary of
Preachers' Aid Unit**

Dr. Claude Young, pastor of Methodist Temple for ten years, has accepted the position of executive secretary of the Preachers' Aid Society of the Northwest Indiana Conference with headquarters in West Lafayette.

Announcement of this was made to the public yesterday. However, Dr. Young announced to members of the official board of the temple at its June meeting earlier in the month, that he had been elected to the position of secretary of the Preachers' Aid Society at the meeting on May 27.

+ + +

HIS DUTIES in his new position will begin with the reading of appointments of ministers by Bishop C. Raines at the annual session of the Northwest Indiana Conference Sunday, which conference will open today.

Methodist Temple, which has asked for Dr. Young's return for the eleventh and even subsequent years, very reluctantly accepted the resignation of Dr. Young, who has been pastor since July, 1939. However the members of it and the church expressed their joy about the promotion given him.

Dr. and Mrs. Young and their daughter Marcia came to Terre Haute in July, 1939. Previous to coming to Terre Haute, Dr. Young had been superintendent of the Lafayette district of the conference for eight years.

+ + +

DURING the ten years of his ministry at Methodist Temple Dr. Young has led the congregation in various accomplishments. A debt of more than \$10,000 was cleared and building repairs and improvements costing \$30,000 were completed. The current budget and gifts to benevolences have been doubled and 476 persons have united with the church.

Dr. and Mrs. Young will live in West Lafayette. They expect to move some time during the week of June 19. He will preach his last sermon as minister of Methodist Temple Sunday morning.

The new pastor for Methodist Temple will be appointed during the present session of the conference and the announcement will be made Sunday afternoon.

Churches (C.W.V.)

METHODIST TEMPLE

Special Collections

New Methodist Temple Planned

Church leaders of Methodist Terre Haute District Missionary Temple Friday announced the acquisition of a four-acre building site located two miles south of the city on Highway 41.

Plans call for a new half-million dollar structure to be built, replacing the present facility at 7th and Poplar Sts. Methodist Temple has been at its present location for 71 years. The church has a congregation of about 800 members.

Purchase of the four-acre site situated on the west side of the highway south of the new Greenbrier Apartments was completed Friday with the official transfer of property to the church from the owners, Carl Adams and Tara Development, Inc. Sale price was announced at \$60,000.

Representing Methodist Temple in the transaction were the Rev. Carl Bosse, pastor; Cyril Cox, chairman of the board of trustees, and Dr. Robert R. Brown, chairman of the building committee.

Joe Petty, treasurer of the

Society, was present for the deed signing in the office of John A. Kesler, attorney, and member of the Methodist Temple board of trustees. The Missionary Society contributed about one third of the land purchase price.

The Adams, themselves members of Montrose Methodist Church, attended the brief ceremony with their counsel, James Sullivan of the firm of Cox, Zwerner, Gambill and Sullivan.

The board chairman said no definite building schedule has been established beyond a special building fund drive this Fall. Results of that drive will determine how quickly the plans proceed, he added.

The Methodist Temple congregation first voted approval of the move from the downtown area last January. Cox said the decision came after a study of alternatives, including expansion of the present facilities.

Definite plans for a major change were made during the pastorate of the Rev. Ralph Jones in 1960 with the estab-

lishment of the building fund.

Créative Building, Inc., Champaign-Urbana, Ill., has agreed to prepare preliminary plans for the church. Included will be the usual sanctuary plus a complete educational unit. The site will also permit ample parking facilities.

Cox said once final plans are completed they will be submitted to the congregation for approval before actual construction begins.

The Rev. Mr. Bosse recalled some of the history of the present downtown church which was completed in 1895 at a cost of \$42,000. The plot of land for the church was purchased for \$8,500.

The first Methodist sermon was preached in Terre Haute in the bar room of the Indian Chief Inn in 1819, according to the history books. Seven Methodists and 18 others attended that first service.

In 1834, the Methodists took over a lot donated by the city at the corner of Fourth and Poplar streets. Seven years later, Old Asbury Chapel was erected on the site and served the local congregation until the present Methodist Temple was built.

There are eight other Methodist churches in the immediate area of Terre Haute including Centenary which will continue to serve its congregation as the only downtown church.

METHODIST TEMPLE

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Community Affairs File

Methodist Temple Launches Fund Drive to Raise \$200,000

TRIB 5-1-1960

By EULETA SLOVER

The congregation of the Methodist Temple today began a financial crusade to meet their 1960-61 budget of \$42,000 and raise \$200,000 for the construction of new educational facilities.

Tomorrow morning, redecorat-

ing of the sanctuary will begin along with other refurbishing features such as installation of new carpeting. The work will require approximately three weeks and is in keeping with the community-wide "Clean-up, Paint-up, Fix-up" campaign, religious

and civic leaders noted.

Although no definite construction plans will be formulated until funds are available, the Rev. Ralph Moore Jones, pastor, said several avenues of expansion are being considered.

The proposed new facilities are to be built or property adjacent to the church proper, located on the northeast corner of Seventh and Poplar streets.

However, the possibility of future expansion to include grounds now occupied by Wiley High School should they ever be

vacated in favor of new high school, have also been discussed among other ideas, the prelate admitted.

Oldest Congregation.

Methodist Temple is the oldest current religious congregation in the city, it being the successor to Asbury Methodist Church, the community's first worship center.

The old church was built at the corner of Fourth and Poplar streets when Terre Haute was but a small village. In 1895, the present building was completed

and the Asbury congregation moved into it.

The sandstone corner stone of the old church was incorporated in the construction of the present temple and a corner of a large stained glass in the sanctuary displays a small replica of the razed historical landmark.

A special service of consecration for some 80 crusade workers will be a part of the regular 9:30 o'clock morning worship service today, following which a congregation dinner will be held in the

social quarters before teams begin making residential calls in quest of funds in the afternoon.

Extends Over 3 Years.

A part of the church's annual budget is devoted to Conference Capital Funds through which a huge conference building program will be achieved over the next three year, \$6,000 per year. The overall conference program will raise \$1,538,870.

Included in the conference program are such items as new Wesley Foundation religious centers

at Indiana State Teachers College, Purdue and DePauw Universities; new conference year-round camping facilities at Battle Ground and Pine Creek; building expansion of homes for the aged and also for dependent children; increased hospital facilities supported by the Indiana Methodist Church and new church building locations here and elsewhere.

The local church's campaign is being directed by William J. Miller of the Bureau of Finance, National Board of Missions of the Methodist Church, from

Philadelphia, Pa.

Workers from the Temple congregation are assembled under the general chairmanship of Homer N. Jackson with J. B. Tygart as co-chairman.

Other committee heads and their co-chairmen, listed in that order, are: Herman L. Cruse and Gene L. Derr, canvas; Frank Mayfield and Virgil House, teams; Dr. Robert R. Brown and James J. Jenkins, advance gifts; Homer Rice, publicity; and Mrs. Helen Wright, preparations.

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METHODIST TEMPLE

is now the president.

Exhibit of Church Relics

if Nov 2/41

Anna Bowles Wiley.

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Community Affairs File

Methodist Centennial Closing With Anniversary Day Today

Sunday Nov 9, 1941 Terre Haute, Ind.

Anna Bowles Willey.

Today is the anniversary day on the program at the Methodist Temple celebration of 100 years of Methodism in the community, for the old Asbury Chapel, which was the beginning of the temple, was the beginning also of Protestantism in Vigo County.

The program today will start with morning worship and church school combined at 9:30 o'clock. The musical program opens with a prelude of organ selections: "Hymn of Glory," by Yon; "Hebrew Prayer of Thanksgiving" and prelude from "The Holy City," by Gaul.

The anthem by the Temple Choir will be Beethoven's "The Heavens Resound" and another, "Gloria," by Mozart. The offertory will be "Wings of Light," by Deane Shure. Bishop Trus Lowe will deliver the sermon. Bishop Lowe is resident bishop of the Indianapolis area.

At 6:30 o'clock a young people's devotional service will be held.

The centennial brought forward the issuing of centennial booklets to be retained as souvenirs of this momentous occasion in church circles. These booklets are most interesting, containing a picture of Old Asbury and of Methodist Temple, along with a brief history of the church and a photograph of Bishop Lowe, D. D. L. L. D., of Indianapolis, who is closing the centennial celebration today.

There is also one of the Rev. John Emmett Porter, S. T. B. D. D., district superintendent of Greencastle district.

There is a brief history on the women's work of the church since 1888 and one of the church school and the young people of the Methodist Temple. There is a pastoral record from 1841 to 1941 with photographs of all the men who served as ministers of the parish.

Staff of the Temple.

The Methodist Temple staff and leaders of societies and organizations is contained therein also and is as follows:

The Staff—Claude Young, minister; Miss Enid Royer, church secretary; A. D. Masters, church treasurer; J. Calvin Fink, benevolence treasurer; Miss Amella A. Meyer, organist and choir director; Perry Cawthorn, caretaker.

Presidents of Societies—L. R. Whitney, president board of trustees; Lewis A. Linderman, superintendent church school; Mrs. A. D. Masters, president Women's Society of Christian Service; Mrs. M. B. Van Cleave, president Woman's Guild; Miss Lillian Brooks, president Wesleyan Service Guild; Charles A. Purcell, president Brotherhood Clubs; Miss Carmen Purcell, president Youth Fellowship.

General Committee—Dr. Claude Young, chairman; Earl M. Mann, Charles A. Purcell, Clifford E. Schafer, Dr. W. N. Baker, Fred R. Waldron, Mrs. W. S. Forney, Miss Enid Royer, A. D. Masters, Lewis A. Linderman, Mrs. A. D. Masters, Ed Conley.

Chairmen—Committee on invitations, Miss Enid Royer; committee on arrangements for homecoming, Mrs. A. D. Masters; committee on

program, Fred R. Waldron; committee on music, Miss Amella A. Meyer; committee on publicity, Ed Conley; committee on speakers, the pastor; committee on layman's day, Earl M. Mann; committee on ushers, H. C. Glenn George Pentecost.

Chairmen Historical Committees—Women's work, Mrs. W. S. Forney; young people, Charles A. Purcell; church school, Lewis A. Linderman; exhibit, Mrs. J. C. Wakeman, Mrs. Eugene Jenison.

Guest Speakers.

The programs for each day have been especially fine with Methodists' Night on Thursday when the other Methodist churches were guests. Addresses were given by the Rev. Russell L. Phillips, pastor of Centenary Methodist; Dr. John Emmett Porter, district superintendent of Greencastle, and with the Rev. C. V. Bigler, pastor of Liberty Avenue, giving the benediction, and the Rev. C. P. Burdon, pastor at Montrose and president of the Ministerial Association, intoning the invocation.

The choruses of the Terre Haute Methodist churches sang "Seek Ye the Lord," by Roberts, with Richard Grove at tenor soloist.

An address was delivered by the Rev. Theodore Grob, pastor of Calvary, with responsive reading led by the Rev. W. A. McFadden, Fourth Avenue Church. The Rev. Buel E. Horn offered prayer. An offertory solo, "Come Ye Blessed," by Scott, was sung by Richard Grove, soloist, and the Rev. W. C. Evers, Trinity Church, gave the offertory prayer.

Friday evening was young people's night and the Rev. Merrill B. McFall, pastor, First Methodist Church of Bloomington, delivered the address.

Splendid wisdom was offered in the talks given during this past week on the afternoon and evening programs and indeed the whole event was a love feast for the many who attended each service.

On Layman's Day, Wednesday, the afternoon was given over to the Women's Society of Christian Service with Mrs. A. D. Masters, the president, presiding. The address of the afternoon was delivered by Mrs. E. R. Bartlett, president of the conference W. S. C. S. A. tea marked the late afternoon with Mrs. M. B. Van Cleave presiding. The members of the W. S. C. S. of each Terre Haute Methodist Church were special guests.

There were a large number of former parishioners and ministers who returned for the celebration, which will long be remembered by those who call Methodist Temple their church home and have for many of these one hundred years.

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Community Affairs File

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TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

Methodist Temple

United Methodist Ceremony Today

7-2-67

Ground will be broken in ceremonies Sunday for the erection of a new \$506,000 Montrose-Otterbein United Methodist Church and educational unit on east Poplar St.

The Rev. Dr. William E. Hughes and the Rev. Leland L. Brett are pastors of the congregation, which was formed in a uniting service a year ago in May.

The service joined the congregations of the Montrose Methodist Church and the Otterbein Evangelical United Brethren Church.

A number of church officials and visitors are expected to attend the 11:30 a.m. ceremony which is open to the general public.

Dr. Ralph Steele, superintendent of the Terre Haute District of the church, who was instrumental in the building program, will be unable to attend due to another engagement.

On East Poplar St.

The new edifice will be located on a four and one-half acre of "L" shaped plot in the 2700 block on Poplar St. with the front of the church facing Poplar St. and the educational unit to the rear toward Oak St.

Church officials pointed out that the estimated \$506,000 cost of construction does not include furnishings and landscaping.

Rene C. Aybar is the local architect for the contemporary

design structure and C. H. Harmon & Son is the general contractor. City Plumbing and Heating, Inc., will do the plumbing and heating and the electrical work will be done by Ernie's Electric Company.

Construction of the new building, which will have approximately 25,000 feet of floor space, will start immediately

and is expected to be completed by April, 1968.

The sanctuary will have about 7,000 square feet of floor space with a seating capacity of 500. The choir loft will seat an additional 50 persons.

The sanctuary of the new church goes back into the church history where by the altar table is located in the center of the chancel with the altar rail around the altar.

A northex or lobby will link the sanctuary with the educational department and admini-

strational wing to the rear.

Build Around Court

The educational and administration units will be built around an open court where outside activities can be held.

Ten classrooms, approximately 20 by 30 feet each, which can be divided into two rooms each by the use of folding partitions, including an area for nursery children, two kindergarten room sand another for toddlers are featured in the educational unit.

The unit also has a 20 by 40-foot room which will be used for Scout meetings and activities and a large Fellowship Hall where conferences and dinner meetings can be held. The hall is located near the kitchen facilities and opens onto the court. The hall could accomodate some 170 dinner guests.

Also joining the educational unit are washrooms, a special bride's room and superintendent's office. The administrative departments also has two offices for the pastors, an office for

the secretary, work room, washroom and a large parlor or lounge which features a fireplace.

All On Ground Level

All facilities are located on the ground level with the exception of the boiler room, where

the furnace and air conditioning units are located.

Plans also call for a parking lot with an area for 150 cars and a playground to the east of the educational unit and an entrance to the classrooms from the playground area.

The main church entrance and drive will be on the Poplar St. side where a visitors' parking area is also planned.

The brick faced structure will feature dark stained red wood and a campanile with an aluminum spiral and cross rising 93 feet into the air.

The Mansard style roof on the educational unit will haveterne metal with a Patina green finish. The wood louvered windows on the west side and front

of the sanctuary will feature a special design of multi-colored glass.

Air conditioning and gas heat are among the many other features of the new church. The air conditioning will be in three zones whereby one or all three zones can be used at a chosen time.

John D. Ennis is serving as chairman of the building committee of the church, with Ralph D. Shiefled as co-chairman. Mrs. Robert R. Peffley is secretary. Other members of the committee are Mrs. C. L. Mason, Mrs. Stanton L. Meister, James S. Legg and Dane White.

Community Affairs File

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Churches (Cuv)
Montrose - Otterbein U.M.

Break Ground For Montrose Church Sunday

T. H. Tribune 6/8/67

Ground breaking ceremonies are scheduled Sunday for the new Montrose-Otterbein United Methodist Church at the new site located at 27th and Poplar Sts. The ceremony will begin at 11:30 a.m.

Construction will begin immediately for a complete sanctuary and education unit which will include a building 100 by 100 square feet.

The estimated cost of the new edifice is \$506,000.

Rene C. Aybar is the architect for the new structure and John D. Ennis is serving as chairman of the building committee.

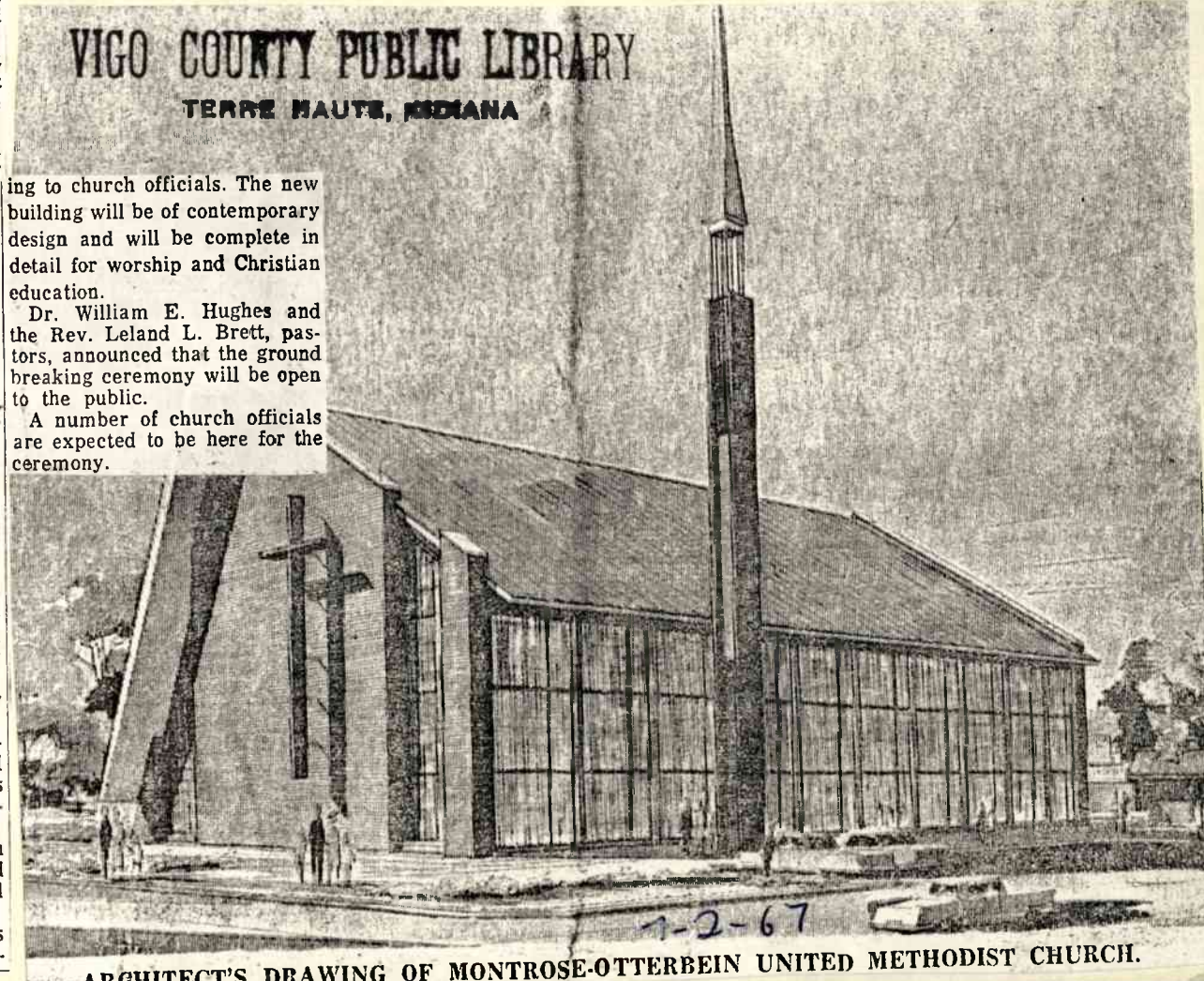
Vernon E. Hux is chairman of the finance committee and Esten D. Fuson is church school superintendent.

Completion of the building is expected in April, 1968, accord-

ing to church officials. The new building will be of contemporary design and will be complete in detail for worship and Christian education.

Dr. William E. Hughes and the Rev. Leland L. Brett, pastors, announced that the ground breaking ceremony will be open to the public.

A number of church officials are expected to be here for the ceremony.



ARCHITECT'S DRAWING OF MONTROSE-OTTERBEIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH.

Churches (WV)
Montrose Meth.

Montrose Church To Dedicate New Addition on Dec. 5

Star OCT 14 1954
The new \$55,000 wing of Montrose Methodist Church, construction on which was started last May, will be dedicated on Sunday, Dec. 5, according to an announcement yesterday by the Rev. C. H. Loveland, pastor of the church.

Bishop Richard C. Raines of Indianapolis will consecrate the new wing on that Sunday.

There will be special services during the week prior to the dedication service. One of these services will be called Heritage Night service at which there will be a reunion of the members of the Montrose Men's Chorus which was organized in 1912.

+ + +

HERITAGE NIGHT will be December 3 and all former members of the church are to be urged to be present, for this night will be a tribute to the church's founders.

Among other features of the week will be the Rev. Russell Ford, chalk artist, the Chandler Trio and M. Panda, a native of India.

The new \$55,000 wing of the church, now nearing completion,

will provide for nearly 3,000 square feet additional floor space on two floor levels.

This floor space will provide a new dining room, beautifully lighted with fluorescent lights; rooms for the junior and youth departments of the Sunday School, and more adequate room for the Brownie Troops, the Girl Scout Troop, Boy Scout Troop 9, and Troop 9 of Explorers as well as Community Home Economics Club.

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Three-Day Celebration To Mark Mt. Pleasant Church Centennial

Anna Bowles Wiley.

Away back when Indiana was a tangle of grape vines and primitive forests churches were not so prevalent as they are today. The building of a church was indeed an excitement and occasioned much comment.

Circuit riders made the whole circuit of several counties, preaching every four or five weeks and it was considered a privilege to attend church, and the coming of the preacher was looked forward to with great anticipation, and big dinners.

Unless there were lay preachers in a community weddings had to wait, and sometimes even funerals, until the circuit rider arrived.

Away back in 1835, a church was born, the Mt. Pleasant Methodist Episcopal church, one of the oldest organizations of Methodists in this section of Indiana.

The centennial of this event religious will be celebrated this week beginning Friday night, when Dr. Schneifer, the district superintendent of the Vincennes district, will speak. The members of the Montrose men's chorus, directed by Sam Wilton, will sing. The celebration will last over Sunday all day.

The Mt. Pleasant church constituted a part of a circuit embracing all of Vigo, a part of Parke, Clay and Putnam counties, and at the time it was built there was not a single frame building owned by the Methodists in this territory. The services when preaching and class meetings were held were either in private homes or in school houses during the cold months and during the warmer season or on special occasions, services were held in the groves.

There was one log building built from hewn logs in the Laverty settlement at the north besides this. Conference was held in Indianapolis in the autumn of 1835, and Thomas Ray and John St. Clare were appointed to the circuit bar.

Preaching was being held at the home of John Herrington, Sr., or the house of Anthony Ostrander or maybe with Hiram Smith, whose house was a double log one and stood a quarter of a mile north-east of the present church.

Each four weeks Rev. Ray preached and then the next meeting date in another four weeks was presided over by Rev. St. Clare. On the intervening Sabbaths local preachers, of whom there were several in the community, held services.

At that time, Aaron Wood was the presiding elder, and John A. Brouse was stationed in Terre Haute in the little brick church built on South Fourth street where Asbury chapel once stood. A camp meeting was opened in August of 1836 on ground just sixty rods from where the church now stands. There were a large number of conversions and additions to the church.

First Idea Of Church.

The country was filling up rapidly and the idea of starting a subscription to build a church was started. William Stevenson gave the ground, and also privilege of getting the timbers from his land for the frame. He also gave \$100 in money. Others gave corresponding sums, the whole amounting to \$500, and the work started that fall.

The timbers were hewn near the church. The weather-boarding was sawed at a little saw mill on Honey creek. The shingles were made by hand, as was the custom in those days. A man named Papham, who lived in a small log cabin left on the camp ground, fashioned these from the large timber.

When the church was first built it rested on blocks. The brick, hand made, were placed in under-pinning some time after.

The grounds were enclosed with a post and rail fence, which was quite an innovation of style, then in use, and this was thought to be rather aristocratic as fences go.

When it was completed, being the first church building in the circuit, it was quite an attraction. There was but one door, and that in the north end, and but one aisle running from the door to the pulpit.

The seats were unpainted and extended from the aisle to the wall on either side. One must "scoot" along in to the wall, allowing other worshippers to follow. There were two seats on either side of the pulpit.

This pulpit, by the way, was an oblong box, reached by five steps from the floor and brought the head of a tall preacher in dangerous proximity with the ceiling, which was of plank.

When used at night it was lighted by the best tallow candles made in the neighborhood, hanging in tin sconces on the window frames. On the pulpit were two tin candlesticks on either end of the book board, which was three feet long.

It was not uncommon in those days to see the preacher during his sermon wet his thumb, finger and pinch off the wick so as to obtain more light.

The altar was enclosed with a balustrade.

The first members of this church

organization, according to the records, were Elisha U. Brown and wife, John Herrington and wife, Sarah Herrington, Julia Herrington, Hiram Smith and wife, William Stevenson and wife, William Woolen and wife, Anthony Ostrander and wife, Mrs. Isabella Jackson and Mrs. Melvina Smith.

They Sang the Hymns.

In the fall of 1836 Rev. Thomas Ray was moved from the circuit and sent to another field. Rev. John St. Clare and Daniel Dickenson were then in charge, but as the building was commenced under Rev. Ray's pastorate he returned to preach the dedication sermon the second Sunday in May. His text was from Psalms 48-12-14.

The congregation was a large one filling both the church and the woods around. Singing was without an instrument, started by the intoning of a tuning fork.

The first class leader of the church was Samuel Robertson. The first steward was Hiram Smith, who was also recording steward for the circuit for several years. From digging down into their pocket-books to their daily life there was perhaps no more devoted, loyal class of Methodists than those who have occupied seats in that old church.

The first Sunday school organized in the neighborhood was started in May of 1838. The superintendent was Miss Warren, who was employed as governess and private teacher for the children of Mrs. W. C. Linton, who owned and occupied the Col. R. W. Thompson place then.

This Sunday school was a large one and the following families were represented: E. U. Brown, W. Clinton, William Stevenson, Hiram Smith, Allen Smith, Isabella Jackson, Charles Jackson, Dean, Anthony Ostrander, Ishmal Pugh, Thomas Pugh, John Herrington, Mrs. Cummings and Thomas Conner.

The equipment for this service was a Methodist hymn book, without music; a Bible, and a Longking's question book.

The task was to memorize the lesson and all references. There was neither organ nor choir, but the historian tells us that while the singing was not classical it was indeed hearty.

The first revival was held in the winter of 1838-9. The meeting began in December. The two circuit riders, Rev. Cornelius Svank and Rev. Thomas Bartle, in charge.

They preached for two weeks then left the meeting in charge of three local preachers, Rev. Fulker, who lived where Brazil now stands; Rev. Thomas Morrow, who lived in Putnamville, and Rev. William Evans. During this revival John Meeses and wife, Samuel Hyde and wife, Jefferson Davis and wife, William Handy and wife, William Stevenson Jr., Alfred Able, Jessie Robertson, Harriette Smith and Eliza Brown were converted and joined the church.

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The Cemetery Nearby.

In 1840, Mt. Pleasant was attached to Terre Haute, with John S. Bayless as pastor. He was to preach at Mt. Pleasant once every two weeks in the afternoon. This did not prove satisfactory to the membership and at the next quarterly conference this was changed and the church put back in the circuit, where it has since remained.

The first burial in the Mt. Pleasant cemetery, which adjoins the church, was Melvina, daughter of Hiram and Sarah Smith.

The city of the dead has filled up rapidly since that time, however. Changes have come and gone at Mt. Pleasant just as they have in other parts of the community and world.

Twice during the century of progress for Mt. Pleasant the church has been remodeled to meet the demands of the changing conditions. The present church was finished in 1906 and dedicated to the same high and holy purposes as the first church in the wilderness which was then Indiana.

The faith that hewed the logs for the first Mt. Pleasant church has burned throughout the 100 change-ful years. The torch of high purpose has fallen from faltering hands of the dead to the quick, down through this century and this week that will be verified.

On Saturday night an authentic reproduction of the camp meeting from which Mt. Pleasant church grew will be held out of doors in the original location. Rev. Allen and Rev. Shields will have charge.

This promises to be a most interesting session. On Sunday, May 16, the morning service will be devoted to the greeting of returned former pastors and a sermon by Rev. A. W. Shields. There will be a basket dinner at noon followed by a concert played by the Greenwood band.

Then, in the afternoon later, will be the period for reminiscences. A historical lecture will be given by Dr. E. Murr, Indiana conference historian from Washington, Ind.

The membership of Mt. Pleasant church now numbers 150. The oldest living members are Mrs. Bertha

Hixon, for 50 years, a half century Mrs. Hixon has worshipped here; Orlan W. Jackson, a member 47 years; Mrs. Mary Coffman, the oldest living attendant, has arrived on Sunday morning, rain or sunshine, for 65 years.

Other older members are Mrs. Grace Lowe, Mrs. Maud Nattkemper, Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Kesler, Mrs. Mavina Pierce, Frank Murphy and A. B. Armacost. Ida Jackson, who died this last Easter, also would have been a worshipper here for 65 years had she lived.

There are a number who will return home for this centennial celebration, some who found Christ at the old altar of the Mt. Pleasant church, others who were converted at the camp meetings.

It is a pleasing circumstance in this community that the first Methodist church in the circuit will mark its century of progress beginning Friday, just southeast on the Riley road, a recalling that the steady flame of Christianity has burned onward through 100 years for this community church.

Celebrate Hundredth Anniversary of Methodist Church Here

3 Oct 26/41
Anna Bowles Wiley.

The Methodist Temple will be one hundred years of age on November 2 and a great celebration from that date through the week until the ninth will be held. That is a most interesting announcement when one mentally gazes backward to what were church services in those early days of Terre Haute and Vigo county, where they were held and by whom. Back to the pioneer days when the backwoods preacher travelled near and far on horseback.

Indeed, he was a trail blazer, where there were no roads and gave his inspiration for a better life to scattered settlements, few or many as the state might be.

His salary was practically nil, but his duty was strong in his soul, so his pay was the inspiration of having done the percentage of good which followed the rides through mud and snow, fording unknown streams, braving the almost impenetrable forests, cheering on his steed and remembering that the Holy Bible, the book of holy writ, reposed in the saddle bags, which flanked his horse and held a change of clothes as well.

These preachers, circuit riders they were named in those years, must have been vallant men, vigorous to withstand malaria, chills and fever, and all the difficulties which beset their path, to carry the gospel to the pioneer homes and school houses in the new state of Indiana.

Lining hymns brought out the notes of worship from hymn books minus scores of tunes. There were no organs as today.

The first Sunday school we find was organized in New Albany by Rev. Isaac Reed in 1818. It must be confessed this school did not find universal favor with the adults, who preferred to take their offspring to church to listen to profound sermons, after churches began to be established.

One also finds that the first sermon preached in Terre Haute was in 1812 when Rev. John Stamper, chaplain of the Kentucky Volunteers when this place was only a scattering settlement, was heard at Fort Harrison. The Methodist circuit riders were among the first in this newly settled place.

When Terre Haute was laid out in 1818 a lot was set aside for a church building, but no church was built for 18 years. Services were held in the Indian Chief tavern, then in the first courthouse, and the homes.

The Methodists were the first to claim the lot, however; and Asbury Chapel, a small brick church, built of hand-made brick, was built on the northwest corner of Fourth and Poplar streets.

The name of the woman who was so generous cannot be remembered, but whoever she was, a dinner bell, which had accompanied her here into her new home from the east,

was given the church to call the worshippers to the chapel.

Some Early History.

A history of the early church beginnings was written by Rev. Aaron Wood, whose ministry began in 1826. He recalls that the first religious services conducted in Vigo county by Protestants and the first sermon preached was held in the barroom of the Indian Chief inn in 1819 with seven Methodists and 18 other persons in attendance.

The principal families who supported the services in the courthouse later were farmers. Among them were the names of families—Barnes, Brown, Dixon, Jackson, Lambert, Wilde and Ostander.

The Methodist Temple had its beginnings under the name of Asbury Chapel and later became known as Old Asbury. Later the congregation moved to the present location at Seventh and Poplar streets, the name was changed to the First Methodist Episcopal church. Then, in 1925, the congregation merged with Centenary Methodist and later when the congregations separated the church retained the name of Methodist Temple.

The first Asbury Chapel cost \$600. This was dedicated by Rev. Aaron Wood and Rev. M. A. Jewett. A new "Old Asbury" was built in 1841. The bell was placed in the cupola in 1843 where for 50 odd years it called the people to services. Rev. Smith Robinson was the first permanent minister. This was a historic center, for it really established Methodism in the community. From this early strength the denomination located churches in various parts of the city as the increase in population created a need.

During the pastorate of Rev. Isaac Dale, who served from 1889-92, the growth of the city and the congregation called for a relocation of the church and a new building. Accordingly a site at the corner of Seventh and Poplar was purchased for \$8,500.

Plans for a new church were approved and subscriptions were taken for \$12,000. The new building was undertaken under the leadership of Rev. Dale but was brought to completion under the pastorate of Rev. W. H. Hickman. It was dedicated in 1895. It cost \$42,000. Its seating capacity was estimated at 1,500. It was at one time one of the largest and best Methodist churches in the state of Indiana.

The trustees of the new church were C. H. Ehrmann, president; W. O. Patton, secretary; Charles Eppert, L. Burgett, R. M. Hollingsworth, J. C. Sawyer and Frank Carmack. The building committee was made up of Charles Ehrmann, Chas. Eppert, W. O. Patton, R. S. Tennant and E. M. Wamsley.

Special responsibility was delegated as follows: To Mr. Wamsley, the heating; to Mr. McFerrin, the disposition of the old pews; to Dr. Hickman, securing new pews; to Mr. Eppert, glass; Mr. Tennant, the organ, and to Mr. Harstine, the chandellere.

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TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

At the dedication services about \$19,000 was raised through subscriptions. The ladies' societies of the church pledged \$1,000, Charles H. Ehrmann gave \$1,000, Charles Whitcomb, \$500; R. S. Tennant, \$500; E. M. Wamsley, \$500; R. M. Hollingsworth, \$500; Ladies' Aid Society, \$1,280; W. O. Patton, \$100; J. S. Talley, \$250; many names for \$100 and then \$50 and on down to \$5, names of men and women long since crumbled to the dust.

At the laying of the corner stone of Asbury church, Seventh and Poplar streets, on July 22, one of the honored spectators was Mrs. Ann Tillotson, who came to Terre Haute in 1816 and who was present at the corner stone laying of the old Asbury Chapel.

And an interesting part of Sunday's services was a brief history of the Methodist district in Terre Haute given by Dr. W. H. Hickman, the present pastor who said in part:

"There is no complete record of the society or class of Methodists in Terre Haute. As early as 1812 the Rev. Jonathan Stamper, chaplain of a Kentucky regiment, preached at Fort Harrison.

While we fix the date of the organization of Asbury Chapel at 1826, we are confident that there

was a class of Methodists organized many years before. Mrs. Tillotson, who came here in 1816, says there was a Methodist society here early in the twenties.

John Dixon, father of Mrs. Samuel Royse, who lived four and one-half miles in the country southeast of town and who was an ardent Methodist, held a class in his home in 1813.

Trace of First Church.

"De Aaron Wood, one of the best informed and most accurate men on the history of Methodism in western Indiana, says that as early as 1813 there was a Methodist society here that held meetings on Sunday.

An interesting incident connected with that society is related by John Hixon. One Sunday the members of the society were holding a meeting at Mr. Lammer's house. A company of savages approached so near as to see the people kneeling in prayer.

A Pottawatami chieftain said, after the signing of a treaty later, that 'we feared the Great Spirit and left.' The night before they had massacred settlers south of Honey Creek.

"Members of every church and Sunday school in the city attended the laying of Asbury's corner stone. On the platform were the pastors

of the various churches, Mayor Ross, Col. R. W. Thompson, Col. W. E. McLean, the Rev. Isaac Dale of Indianapolis, a former pastor of Asbury; R. S. Tennant, W. H. Bannister, C. C. Oakley and Mrs. Tillotson. The principal address was delivered by the Rev. Dr. Leech of Centenary church."

The following is the ministerial record as compiled by Rev. J. Milton Williams in 1927:

Fort Harrison: 1811, Jonathan Stamper, chaplain.

Vincennes and Fort Harrison: 1816, Jacob Turman; 1817, James McCord; 1818, William Medford; 1819, James Scott.

Vincennes: 1820, Job Baker.

Honey Creek Circuit: 1821, David Chamberlin; 1822, Hackaliah Vredenburg; 1823, Samuel Hull; 1824, Samuel Hull; 1825, Richard Hargrave.

Vincennes: 1826, Stephen R. Beggs and Samuel C. Cooper; 1827, John Miller and Asahel L. Risley.

Carlisle: 1828, James Hadley and Benjamin Stephenson; 1829, William H. Smith and Boyd Phelps; 1830, Richard Hargrave and Daniel McMurphy.

Terre Haute Station: 1831, Enoch G. Wood and William Taylor.

Terre Haute and Carlisle became a circuit again: 1831, Enoch G. Wood and William Taylor.

Terre Haute: 1832, Anthony F. Thompson and John Richies; 1833, Richard Hargrave and William Watson; 1834, Joseph White and David Stiver; 1835, Smith L. Robinson; 1836, John A. Brouse; 1837, John Daniel; 1838, John Daniel; 1839, Ebenezer Patrick; 1840, John S. Bayless.

Terre Haute, Mt. Pleasant and Otter Creek: 1841, John S. Bayless.

Terre Haute station: 1842, Joseph Marsee; 1843, Samuel T. Gillette; 1844, Samuel T. Gillette; 1845, Amasa Johnson; 1846, Amasa Johnson; 1847, John L. Smith; 1848, Holly B. Beers.

Terre Haute, Asbury: 1849, George Boyd; 1850, John C. Smith; 1851, John C. Smith; 1852, Aaron Wood; 1853, Aaron Wood; 1854, William Willson; 1855, William Willson; 1856-57, Philander Willey; 1858, George W. Crawford; 1859-60, Thomas Webb; 1861-62, George M. Boyd; 1863, Lucas Nebeker; 1864-65-66, William Graham; 1867-68, Charles Brooke; 1869, Clarke Skinner; 1870-71-72, James Hill; 1873-74, Joseph C. Reed; 1875, William Graham; 1876, Samuel Godfrey; 1877-78, Francis M. Pavey; 1879, William McKendree Darwood; 1880-81, James W. Greene; 1882-84, Samuel Beck; 1885-88, Leander C. Buckles; 1887-88, James H. Hollingsworth; 1889-92, Isaac Dale; 1893, William H. Hickman.

Terre Haute, First Church: 1894-96, William H. Hickman; 1897-99, Demetrius Tillotson; 1900-02, James W. Walker; 1903-08, Ulysses G. Leazenby; 1909-10, Edwin W. Dunlavy; 1911-12, Paul C. Curnick; 1913-15, Isaac B. Harper, 5 months; Frank Dougherty, 7 months; 1917-19, Frank Dougherty; 1920, Frank Dougherty; J. N. Greene, 6 weeks; 1921, William H. Hickman, 5 months; Carl K. Mahoney, 7 months; 1922-24, Carl K. Mahoney.

Terre Haute, Methodist Temple:

1925-26, Earl M. Ellsworth; 1927-29, Lewis M. Lounsbury; 1930-39, Bert D. Beck; 1940-41, Claude Young.

During the pastorate of Carl K. Mahoney, Dr. M. C. Hunt, being pastor of Centenary, steps were taken to unite First Church and Centenary in a central church to be known as Methodist Temple. This was a part of a general movement in the church to build great and imposing churches.

This union gave promise of such a structure and organization in Terre Haute. The union was consummated. Business reverses very readily made this dream impractical. There was no sale for the old properties and no chance to undertake a new enterprise under conditions.

Not being able to go farther in this challenging enterprise, members of both churches began to think of returning to their old churches. This was done in 1929 during the pastorate of Dr. L. M. Lounsbury.

With all this history behind inculcated into the foundation of this church a celebration seems eminent, so there has been 600 or more letters sent out, hither and yon, to former parishioners of the Methodist Temple and ministers, who have been leaders here, asking them to return for this 100th celebration.

The program has not yet been completed, but well known figures in Methodism, fine speakers, like Dr. Wildman, president of DePauw,

The program has not yet been completed, but well known figures in Methodism, fine speakers, like Dr. Wildman, president of DePauw, and Dr. Davis, dean of men, who will both speak at evening services. The church has an antique room with trophies of years gone by placed there on exhibit.

A bible published in London in

1841 presented to the church by the late Col. Richard Wiggington Thompson. A secretary's note book of proceedings of the Sunday school in 1868 are among the many things interesting.

Then there is a tall silver communion pitcher from Old Asbury church and a baptismal font in silver as well. The antique room is well worth a visit, and will increase in value as the days come closer to the date of the celebration. Replies to the many letters which have been sent forth have already begun to come in and the visitors who will be present promise to be many, and the home-coming of pastors will also be an unusually large one.

Women have always played a large part in the church service. They have by their labors, various dinners, suppers, entertainments, etc., furnished and redecorated the church and helped generally to carry on.

The Woman's Furnishing society was started in Jan. 12, 1886. The first president was Mrs. Leander C. Buckles, the pastor's wife. It was the custom therefore until 1894 for the pastors' wives to serve. Then Mrs. A. J. Doak as the president, and in 1925 the society became the Woman's Business society.

In 1934 the name was again changed to the Women of Methodist Temple and now it is known as the Women's Society of Christian Service. Mrs. A. D. Masters is now the president.

Circuit preachers served early Methodists here

When the Methodists in the neighborhood of the present Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church, a well-known landmark on the Old Riley Road, first organized in 1835, they became part of a circuit embracing all of Vigo County, part of Parke County on the north, part of Clay County on the east, and part of Putnam County on the northeast.

At that time there was not a single frame church building owned by the Methodists in all that territory. There was a hewed log church in the Lavery settlement on the north. Preachings and class meetings were held in private homes or in schoolhouses. During the summer and on extraordinary occasions, services were held in the groves.

Thomas Ray and John St. Clare were appointed to the circuit at the conference held at Indianapolis in the fall of 1835. In May 1836, the Rev. William Stevenson's father moved his family from Philadelphia to the Packard farm.

Preaching was held at that time in the homes of John Herrington Sr., Anthony Ostrander, or in the double log house of Hiram Smith, about a quarter of a mile northeast of the present church location.

Brother Ray preached once in four weeks, and the other Sabbaths were taken care of by several local preachers in the circuit. In 1836 Aaron Wood was the presiding elder. John A. Brouse was stationed in Terre Haute, and preached in the small brick church where Asbury stood later.

During late August, a camp meeting was held about 60 rods south of where Mount Pleasant Church now stands. A number of conversions and additions to the church membership occurred at this revival. The country was filling up rapidly and thought was given to start a subscription for a church building.

The Rev. Stevenson gave an acre of ground with the privilege of getting the framing timbers from his land and \$100 in hard cash. Others gave amounts totaling \$800. Work was begun late in 1836. Timbers were hewed near the original church site. The

Historically speaking



Clark retired as The Tribune-Star women's editor in 1980. She has written a local history column for 30 years. She is Vigo County Historian.

By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

weatherboarding was sawed on a little sawmill on Honey Creek. Mr. Popham who lived in a log house left on the campgrounds made the shingles by hand.

Stevenson couldn't recall who the builder was, but he did remember many details of its construction. The church rested on blocks until the brick underpinning was put in sometime later.

The church grounds were enclosed with a post and rail fence, quite an innovative style then in use and thought to be rather aristocratic. As the first church building in the circuit, it attracted a lot of attention.

The church had only one door in the north end and only one aisle running from the door to the pulpit. The unpainted seats extended from the aisle to the wall on either side.

There were two seats on each side of the pulpit, which was an oblong box five steps above the floor. A tall minister found his head dangerously close to the plank ceiling. The book board was high enough to reach the chest of an ordinary-sized man.

At night the best tallow candles made in the neighborhood were lit in tin sconces hung from the window frames to provide light. On the pulpit there were tin candlesticks, one on either side of the 3-foot long book board. It was common to see the preacher wet his thumb and forefinger to pick the wick of a candle to get more light on his sermon. The altar was enclosed with a balustrade.

When this church was first planned it was called "Spring Hill

Church," but on dedication day, it was named Mount Pleasant.

Brother Ray had been moved to another circuit, but he returned to preach the dedicatory sermon on the second Sunday in May 1837, 150 years ago. His text was taken from Psalms: 48-12-14. On this occasion, 150 years ago, the congregation filled the new church and the overflow listened to the services from the nearby woods.

The first members of the formal organization of this society were Elisha U. Brown and his wife; John Herrington and wife; Sarah Herrington; Julie Herrington; Hiram Smith and wife; William Stevenson and wife; Anthony Ostrander and wife; Samuel Robertson and wife; William Woolen and wife; Mrs. Isbella Jackson; and Mrs. Melvina Smith.

The new church held its first revival in the winter of 1838-39. Cornelius Swank and Thomas Bartlett, on the circuit then, began the meeting and after two weeks left it in charge of three local preachers: Brother Falkner, who lived where Brazil is now; Thomas Morrow of Putnamville; and William Evans of Pleasant Gardens.

Some of the greatest men in Methodism have preached in Mount Pleasant Church, including Matthew Simpson, Edward R. Ames, Allen Wily, L. W. Berry, Aaron Wood, William Daily and others.

The first Sunday School was organized in May 1888. Miss Warren, who was employed as governess and private teacher for the children of W. C. Linton in the former Thompson place, was chosen superintendent.

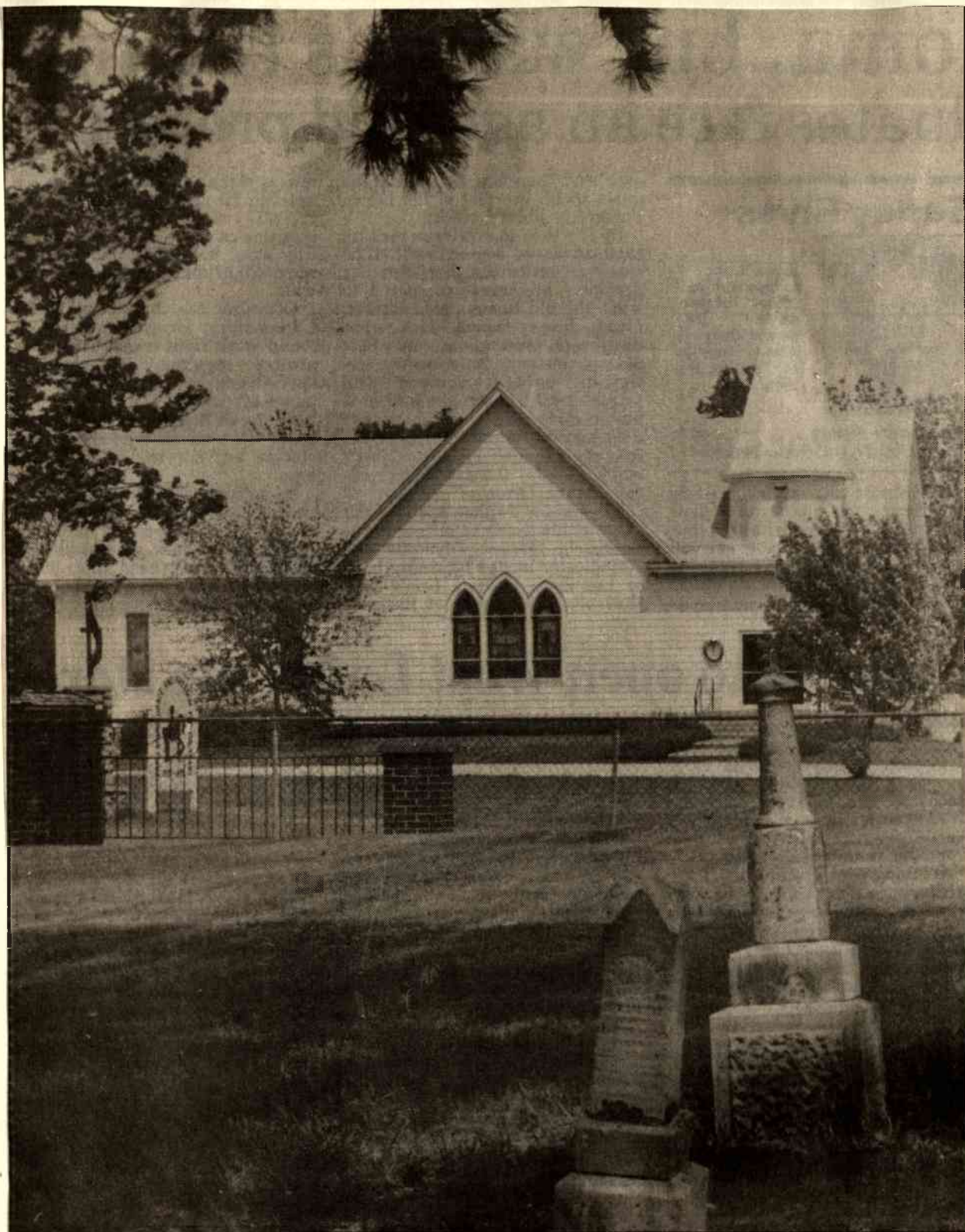
Without organ or choir, the singing was hearty, not classical, according to Stevenson. Teachers were required to memorize the lesson and all the references for the questions. Equipment included the Methodist hymn book, a Bible and Long-King's Question Book.

Some years back, the old church survived its short move to its present location from its original position bordering the old graveyard.

Mount Pleasant, United Methodist Church

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Historic shadows: Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church stands on a gentle hill south of Terre Haute on the Old Riley Road. The church was organized in 1835 when Methodists in the neighborhood became part of a circuit extending from Vigo County to parts of Parke, Clay and Putnam counties. Tombstones in the wooded cemetery reflect that historic beginning.

Mt. Pleasant Church

Celebrates 140 Years

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

The Mt. Pleasant Methodist Episcopal Church, one of the oldest organizations of Methodism in this part of Indiana, was first organized in 1835. The early society was part of the circuit embracing all of Vigo, a part of Parke, Clay and Putnam counties.

At that time there was not a single frame building owned by Methodists in this territory. Preaching services and class meetings were held either in private homes or school houses during the winter months. In warmer weather and on extraordinary occasions, these services were held in the groves.

In the fall of 1835, Rev. Thomas Ray and Rev. John St. Clare were appointed to the circuit. Each minister preached every four weeks at the homes of Anthony Ostrander, John Herrington Sr., or Hiram Smith.

The Hiram Smith home was a double log house which stood about a quarter of a mile north-east of the present church.

The intervening Sabbaths were taken care of by several local preachers in the circuit.

During the last of August, 1836, a stirring grove camp meeting was held about 60 rods southwest of the present church.

Tradition has it that Peter Cartwright either was in charge of the event or was instrumental in its success. Many new members were added along with an increased desire for a new building. Subscriptions for a building met with hearty response. William Stevenson gave an acre of ground with the privilege of getting the timber for the frame from his land and \$100 in money. Others gave corresponding sums totaling \$800.

Construction of the church building began that fall. The timbers were hewed near the church. Weather-boarding was sawed at a little saw mill on Honey Creek. The shingles were made by hand by a Mr. Paphan who lived in a log cabin left on the camp ground. When finished, the building was quite an attraction being the first on the circuit.

Inside the post and rail fence, the small church rested on a block foundation on Mt. Pleasant hill. Entering through the single door, pioneer worshippers viewed a typical early church with one aisle running from the door to the pulpit. On either side of this aisle unpainted seats extended to the wall.

The pulpit, flanked by two seats on each side, had the appearance of a rectangular box. It was reached by five steps.

The altar was enclosed with a balustrade, and on the rostrum was a "book board" or pulpit desk, a three-foot plank resting on a single upright leg.

When the church was used after dark, tin sconces (candle holders) hung upon the window frames held the best tallow candles made in the neighborhood to furnish light. On the pulpit there were two candlesticks, one on either end of the book board. It was not uncommon to see the preacher wet his thumb and finger and pinch off the wick to obtain more light during his sermon.

Mt. Pleasant Church was dedicated the second Sunday in May, 1837. Rev. Thomas Ray used Psalms 48:12-14 as the text for his dedicatory sermon. Previous to this dedication the church organization had been known as Spring Hill, but during the service Rev. Ray named it Mt. Pleasant, the name it still carries.

Twice during the century of its existence the church has been remodeled to meet the demands of changing conditions. The present building was finished in 1906 and dedicated to the same holy purpose as its predecessor of wilderness days. Today the old church is redolent with fragrant memories of several generations.

Among the first members of the church society were, Elisha U. Brown and wife, John Herrington and wife, Sarah and Julia Herrington, William Stevenson and wife, Anthony

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Ostrander and wife, William Woolen and wife, Mrs. Isabella Jackson, Mrs. Melvina Smith, Hiram Smith and wife (he was the first church steward), and Samuel Robertson, the first class leader.

In December, 1838, the first revival was held by Rev. Cornelius Swank and Rev. Thomas Bartlett. After two weeks, three local preachers, Bro. Falkner, who lived where Brazil now stands; Thomas Morrow, from Putnamville, and William Evans carried on quite successfully through the early part of 1839.

The first Sabbath school was organized in May, 1838, and supervised by Miss Warren, then governess and private teacher of the children of Mrs. W. C. Linton who lived in the Col. Thompson's residence at Spring Hill.

In 1840, Mt. Pleasant was attached to the station at Terre Haute, and Rev. John S. Bayless preached every other Sunday afternoon. This was not satisfactory, and the church was changed back to its original circuit the next conference.

Earliest pastors included: David Dickerson, Thos. Ray, John St. Clare, Cornelius Swank, Thos. Bartlett, Esra Kemp, John R. Tansey, Jacob Miller, Elijah Long, Elijah Burress, William C. Hersly, James Williams, David Williamson, W. B. Davis, Joseph Asbury and Daniel De Mote.

Stained glass windows were donated in 1906 in memory of several church members.

In 1967, the church purchased five acres north and across the road from the church. Ground was broken Sept. 3 and the church was moved during September and October by Elmer Bucata. The church was turned around to face the south and set on new foundation. After remodeling, siding and roofing work was completed, the members did the painting, paneling and inside work. The old pews were refinished at a cost of \$50 each, and the old altar rail refinished to match.

Sixteen feet was added to the north end of the building, and rest rooms were installed for the first time. Red carpeting was installed on the entire first floor. Total cost of all this change was \$55,000.

Mrs. Blanche Hansing and Mrs. Louise Chapman have completed a brief chronological history of the church, and copies of these will be available to interested persons.



HISTORICAL CHURCH — The Mt. Pleasant Church, located on the old Riley Rd., just south of the city limits, was dedicated in 1837. Originally the church was located on the southwest corner of the old Riley Rd. and the Springhill Rd. It was moved about eight years ago across the roadway and extensive remodeling was done. The historical church is one of the oldest organizations of Methodism in Indiana, having been organized in 1835. House of Photography Photo.

Churches W
Mt. Pleasant

Mt. Pleasant UM Church

Community Affairs File

MAY 2 1975 S MAY 2 1975

Marks 140th Anniversary

Churches (Vigo Co)

The Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church will celebrate its 140th anniversary this Sunday and scheduled speakers will include Rev. Charles DuMond.

Methodist Church district superintendent.

In the fall of 1835, Rev. Thomas Ray and Rev. John St. Clare were appointed to a four-county circuit, including Vigo, Parke, Clay and Putnam counties.

+ + +

Each minister preached every four weeks at the homes of Anthony Ostrander, John Herrington Sr., or Hiram Smith. And so this is how the Methodists got their start locally.

Efforts were made to con-

struct a church in the summer of 1836 and with William Stevenson's contribution of one acre of land, the building program began. Stevenson gave the churchbuilders the land so they could cut the timber needed for the church. In co-operation with Stevenson's acre of land and a \$100 contribution, others gave money for the construction program, totaling \$800.

+ + +

Activities Sunday will begin at 9:30 a.m. with the morning worship message delivered by Rev. DuMond. At 12:30 p.m. a dinner will be served and friends are asked to bring a vegetable, and salad. Meat, drink, bread, butter, a dessert will be furnished. For persons having a group of more than two persons attending, please contact Mrs. Coy Orman, 299-2264.

The "Singing Messengers" will perform at 2 p.m. and the Rev. John Thrasher will deliver the afternoon message.

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TERRE HAUTE, INDIANAREFERENCE
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150-year-old church rich with history

T's SEP 8 1985

Community Affairs File

By Dave Delaney
Tribune-Star Staff Reporter

When Abraham Lincoln defeated Peter Cartwright to represent an Illinois district in the U.S. Congress, it was a blessing in disguise for Terre Haute's Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church.

"Cartwright was a circuit rider instrumental in bringing many converts into our church," said Mary Collier of the church.

The church has been at the intersection of Davis Avenue and the old Riley Road for 150 years. The congregation is celebrating the church's anniversary next Sunday

with a 12:30 p.m. basket dinner on the parsonage lawn as part of the festivities.

The church was established in 1835 with Methodist Episcopal affiliation, and the original members met in either private homes or schools.

The first church building for the Mount Pleasant Church was constructed in 1837. Later the white church with the spire on top was moved across the street from its original site. The building was the first frame church in this area, said Collier, who with Eva Heramb is co-chairman of the sesquicentennial celebration.

The church was reconstructed in 1906, but portions of the original

church still form part of the building.

The Rev. James White has been pastor of the church for the past five years. For the first 148 years of the church's existence, its ministers also had to serve other churches. Only for the last two years has Mount Pleasant United Methodist had a full-time minister.

Collier said some people in the church have been members 50 years or more.

"My family has been going to this church since the 1880s," said Joseph Lowe, himself a member 70 years. "This church has been a stable spot in our community." Lowe's mother was communion

steward in the church for 60 years.

Lowe said the church is the second-oldest United Methodist church in Vigo County, with the Methodist Temple a few years older. He remembers numerous Indian bones were found when a basement was dug for the church in 1936.

The Rev. LeRoy Hodapp, bishop for Indiana's Methodist churches, will speak at both the 9 and 11 a.m. services next Sunday. The district superintendent, the Rev. Richard Armstrong, also will attend. The Rev. Joel Catlin of Catlin, Ill., will appear dressed as circuit rider Peter Cartwright to deliver a sermon in Cartright's style.

A place of healing

Busy pastor watches church grow

Community Affairs File

“God is alive and well at Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church,” according to the Rev. James R. White, pastor. “I believe He is able to do the same miracles in 1985 as He did in the days of Jesus. And I believe He wants His church to be a place of healing. I’m using ‘healing’ in the broadest sense of the word. God is powerful and does heal directly, but the church also needs to provide programs with a lot of expertise to help healing occur.”

Mount Pleasant’s calendar lists all the usual church meetings, plus special ministries planned to bring wholeness to human life: marriage enrichment seminars, Mom’s Day Out, New Dimensions (weight loss), aerobics, Over 60 Club, women’s circles, prayer/sharing groups, choirs, Men’s Prayer Breakfast and an annual Spiritual Life weekend.

Next Sunday, Mount Pleasant celebrates its 150th anniversary, with old-fashioned clothes, special guests and dinner on the lawn. But this church is not simply basking in its rich heritage. Through careful planning and goal setting, new possibilities for ministry open each year.

“Rev. Jim,” as his parishioners call him, is working toward his doctorate in counseling. “I am interested in social issues — everything from racism, to divorce, to abused children,” he explained. “In developing our programs we use the tools of secular knowledge. Our church is evangelical but not narrow. We hold a Wesleyan position, emphasizing a personal relationship with God, along with social involvement. Methodism is ecumenical; and for our many programs we draw on biblical resources from other denominations as well. White serves as District Evangelism Chairperson, helping with resources for other area Methodist churches.

“We enjoy studying major Bible themes on Sunday evenings. Beginning Sept. 22 is a ten-week course on Old Testament prophets, examining their emphasis on social justice, personal righteousness and relationship to the living God. The prophets paint pictures of the future as well,” White said.

“Our fourth marriage enrichment

High ground



Mrs. Yates, known in area churches as author and lecturer, writes about “practical religion.”

By Madonna Yates
Special to The Tribune-Star

weekend is Oct. 25-27, and there are openings for seven to 10 couples. We provide opportunities for participants to feel closer to God and each other. I use a mixture of biblical faith, psychology and deep concern to create ministries that center on wholeness. Responsible parenting groups meet six to eight weeks. We’ve held two divorce recovery workshops for persons who have gone through this trauma. Most of our ministries are short segments, but we do have ongoing sharing and caring groups,” he added.

White maintains a heavy private counseling schedule. Most crisis and problem-solving needs are met in five or six sessions. A few require long term counseling.

Mount Pleasant members are involved in the community, helping with the Samaritan Project, Lighthouse Mission, Lifeline and the Women’s Task Force on Spouse Abuse.

White serves on the Vigo County Drug and Alcohol Abuse Task Force, which concentrates on preventive education for fourth grade students in the Vigo County School Corporation. He helped to design a program in rehabilitation for junior and senior high students who are dismissed from school because of drug use. “We hope to provide five sessions for individual therapy and five meetings in group counseling. If the therapist feels the youngster needs more, it can be arranged. We want to help get kids back in school because they could miss an entire year. If they are achievers, a drug incident

could ruin their academic life,” White said. Therapists work closely with the school corporation and make recommendations about reinstating offenders.

When the church board requested White be assigned as full-time pastor in June, 1984, he had been serving half time for four years. His other charge was Christ United Methodist Church in West Terre Haute. Under his ministry Mount Pleasant has grown from 80 to 180 with two Sunday morning services.

During our interview, his wife, Carolyn, was taking enrollment for Mom’s Day Out. From 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. each Tuesday, preschoolers are taught paper cutting, following directions, sequencing, colors, pre-math skills, numbers and letter recognition. Expecting about 50 applicants, Carolyn was overwhelmed with 76. Now there is a waiting list.

Nursery school for three and four year olds meets three days a week. This past summer Vacation Bible School drew 70, and Day Camp had 31. An after school club for children four years old through sixth grade meets weekly with a program similar to scouting.

White’s office is in his home and the telephone rings day and night. A secretary works only seven hours a week. The church can’t afford another staff person, so volunteers are needed. Rebecca, 9, and Wesley, 3, are accustomed to having family life interrupted.

After the grand 150 year celebration, Mount Pleasant will launch its building program. Four large Sunday School rooms will be constructed below an addition to the sanctuary. Seating capacity will expand from 180 to 250. The exterior should be done by the middle of December, and church members will work on the interior of the classrooms during Christmas holidays.

The peaceful, quiet country church at Davis Avenue and Old Riley Road is a beehive of suburban activity as one group moves over to make room for another through each day and evening.

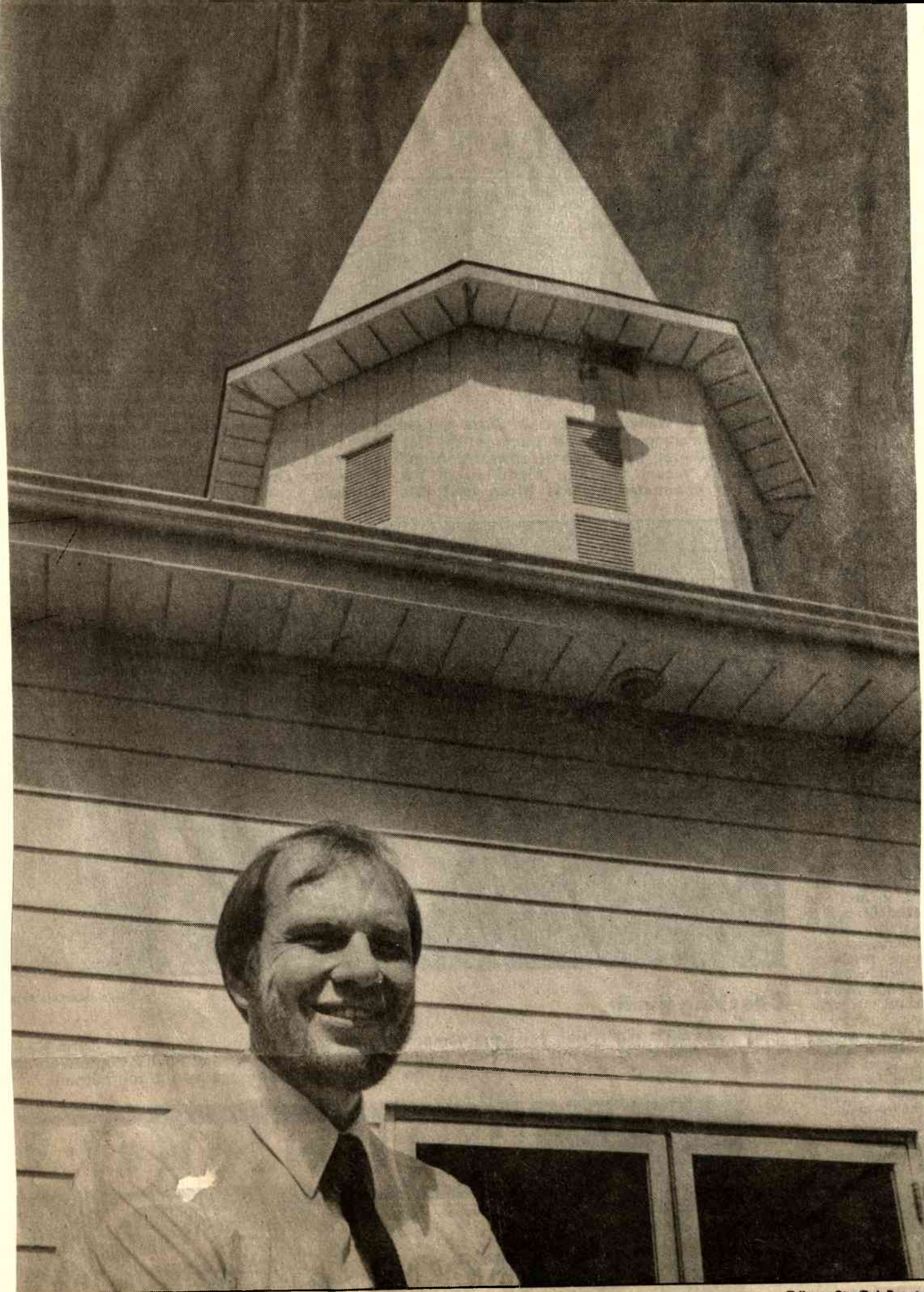
The 151st year seems to be off to a running start.

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Community Affairs File

MOUNT PLEASANT UNITED METHODIST



Tribune-Star/Bob Poynter

Proud of church: Rev. James White prepares for Mount Pleasant's 150th anniversary.

May 13, 1937

Three-Day Celebration To Mark Mt. Pleasant Church Centennial

Indian Churches (I.A.)

Anna Bowles Wiley.

Away back when Indiana was a tangle of grape vines and primitive forests churches were not so prevalent as they are today. The building of a church was indeed an excitement and occasioned much comment.

Circuit riders made the whole circuit of several counties, preaching every four or five weeks and it was considered a privilege to attend church, and the coming of the preacher was looked forward to with great anticipation, and big dinners.

Unless there were lay preachers in a community weddings had to wait, and sometimes even funerals, until the circuit rider arrived.

Away back in 1835, a church was born, the Mt. Pleasant Methodist Episcopal church, one of the oldest organizations of Methodists in this section of Indiana.

The centennial of this event religious will be celebrated this week beginning Friday night, when Dr. Schneifer, the district superintendent of the Vincennes district, will speak. The members of the Montrose men's chorus, directed by Sam Wilton, will sing. The celebration will last over Sunday all day.

The Mt. Pleasant church constituted a part of a circuit embracing all of Vigo, a part of Parke, Clay and Putnam counties, and at the time it was built there was not a single frame building owned by the Methodists in this territory. The services when preaching and class meetings were held were either in private homes or in school houses during the cold months and during the warmer season or on special occasions, services were held in the groves.

There was one log building built from hewn logs in the Laverty settlement at the north besides this. Conference was held in Indianapolis in the autumn of 1835, and Thomas Ray and John St. Clare were appointed to the circuit bar.

Preaching was being held at the home of John Herrington, Sr., or the house of Anthony Ostrander or maybe with Hiram Smith, whose house was a double log one and stood a quarter of a mile north-east of the present church.

Each four weeks Rev. Ray preached and then the next meeting date in another four weeks was presided over by Rev. St. Clare. On the intervening Sabbaths local preachers, of whom there were several in the community, held services.

At that time, Aaron Wood was the presiding elder, and John A. Brouse was stationed in Terre Haute in the little brick church built on South Fourth street where Asbury chapel once stood. A camp meeting was opened in August of 1836 on ground just sixty rods from where the church now stands. There were a large number of conversions and additions to the church.

First Idea Of Church.

The country was filling up rapidly and the idea of starting a subscription to build a church was started. William Stevenson gave the ground, and also privilege of getting the timbers from his land for the frame. He also gave \$100 in money. Others gave corresponding sums, the whole amounting to \$800, and the work started that fall.

The timbers were hewn near the church. The weather-boarding was sawed at a little saw mill on Honey creek. The shingles were made by hand, as was the custom in those days. A man named Papham, who lived in a small log cabin left on the camp ground, fashioned these from the large timber.

When the church was first built it rested on blocks. The brick, hand made, were placed in under-pinning some time after.

The grounds were enclosed with a post and rail fence, which was quite an innovation of style, then in use, and this was thought to be rather aristocratic as fences go.

When it was completed, being the first church building in the circuit, it was quite an attraction. There was but one door, and that in the north end, and but one aisle running from the door to the pulpit.

The seats were unpainted and extended from the aisle to the wall on either side. One must "scoot" along in to the wall, allowing other worshippers to follow. There were two seats on either side of the pulpit.

This pulpit, by the way, was an oblong box, reached by five steps from the floor and brought the head of a tall preacher in dangerous proximity with the ceiling, which was of plank.

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sources on the wall. On the pulpit were candles on either end of the book board, which was three feet long.

It was not uncommon in those days to see the preacher during his sermon wet his thumb, finger and pinch off the wick so as to obtain more light.

The altar was enclosed with a balustrade.

The first members of this church organization, according to the records, were Ellsha U. Brown and wife, John Herrington and wife, Sarah Herrington, Julia Herrington, Hiram Smith and wife, William Stevenson and wife, William Woolen and wife, Anthony Ostrander and wife, Mrs. Isabella Jackson and Mrs. Melvina Smith.

They Sang the Hymns.

In the fall of 1836 Rev. Thomas Ray was moved from the circuit and sent to another field. Rev. John St. Clare and Daniel Dickenson were then in charge, but as the building was commenced under Rev. Ray's pastorate he returned to preach the dedication sermon the second Sunday in May. His text was from Psalms 48-12-14.

The congregation was a large one filling both the church and the woods around. Singing was without an instrument, started by the intoning of a tuning fork.

The first class leader of the church was Samuel Robertson. The first steward was Hiram Smith, who was also recording steward for the circuit for several years. From digging down into their pocket-books to their daily life there was perhaps no more devoted, loyal class of Methodists than those who have occupied seats in that old church.

The first Sunday school organized in the neighborhood was started in May of 1838. The superintendent was Miss Warren, who was employed as governess and private teacher for the children of Mrs. W. C. Linton, who owned and occupied the Col. R. W. Thompson place then.

This Sunday school was a large one and the following families were represented: E. U. Brown, W. Clinton, William Stevenson, Hiram Smith, Allen Smith, Isabella Jackson, Charles Jackson, Dean, Anthony Ostrander, Ishmal Pugh, Thomas Pugh, John Herrington, Mrs. Cummings and Thomas Conner.

The equipment for this service was a Methodist hymn book, without music; a Bible, and a Longking's question book.

The task was to memorize the lesson and all references. There was neither organ nor choir, but the historian tells us that while the singing was not classical it was indeed hearty.

riders, Rev. Thomas Bartle, in charge.

They preached for two weeks then left the meeting in charge of three local preachers, Rev. Fulker, who lived where Brazil now stands; Rev. Thomas Morrow, who lived in Putnamville, and Rev. William Evans. During this revival John Meeses and wife, Samuel Hyde and wife, Jefferson Davis and wife, William Handly and wife, William Stevenson Jr., Alfred Able, Jessie Robertson, Harriette Smith and Eliza Brown were converted and joined the church.

The Cemetery Nearby.

In 1840, Mt. Pleasant was attached to Terre Haute, with John S. Bayless as pastor. He was to preach at Mt. Pleasant once every two weeks in the afternoon. This did not prove satisfactory to the membership and at the next quarterly conference this was changed and the church put back in the circuit, where it has since remained.

The first burial in the Mt. Pleasant cemetery, which adjoins the church, was Melvina, daughter of Hiram and Sarah Smith.

The city of the dead has filled up rapidly since that time, however. Changes have come and gone at Mt. Pleasant just as they have in other parts of the community and world.

Twice during the century of progress for Mt. Pleasant the church has been remodeled to meet the demands of the changing conditions. The present church was finished in 1906 and dedicated to the same high and holy purposes as the first church in the wilderness which was then Indiana.

The faith that hewed the logs for the first Mt. Pleasant church has burned throughout the 100 change-ful years. The torch of high purpose has fallen from faltering hands of the dead to the quick, down through this century and this week that will be verified.

On Saturday night an authentic reproduction of the camp meeting from which Mt. Pleasant church grew will be held out of doors in the original location. Rev. Allen and Rev. Shields will have charge.

This promises to be a most interesting session. On Sunday, May 16, the morning service will be devoted to the greeting of returned former pastors and a sermon by Rev. A. W. Shields. There will be a basket dinner at noon followed by a concert played by the Greenwood band.

Then, in the afternoon later, will be the period for reminiscences. A historical lecture will be given by Dr. E. Murr, Indiana conference historian from Washington, Ind.

Mrs. Hixon has worshipped here: Orten W. Jackson, a member 47 years; Mrs. Mary Coffman, the oldest living attendant, has arrived on Sunday morning, rain or sunshine, for 65 years.

Other older members are Mrs. Grace Lowe, Mrs. Maud Nadtkenper, Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Kesler, Mrs. Mavina Pierce, Frank Murphy and A. B. Armacost. Ida Jackson, who died this last Easter, also would have been a worshipper here for 65 years had she lived.

There are a number who will return home for this centennial celebration, some who found Christ at the old altar of the Mt. Pleasant church, others who were converted at the camp meetings.

It is a pleasing circumstance in this community that the first Methodist church in the circuit will mark its century of progress beginning Friday, just southeast on the Riley road, a recalling that the steady flame of Christianity has burned onward through 100 years for this community church.

Mt. Pleasant Church Was First Organized in 1835

Int. Star 3-4-62

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

A history of the Mt. Pleasant Church, well-known landmark on the old Riley road, was written in 1890 by Rev. William Stevenson. According to his writings, the Methodist Society in the neighborhood of the present church, was first organized in 1835, and constituted a part of a circuit embracing all of Vigo County, part of Parke County on the north, part of Clay County on the east, and part of Putnam County on the northeast.

At that time there was not a single frame church building owned by the Methodists in all that territory. There was a hewed log church in the Laverty settlement on the north. Preachings and class meetings were held in private homes or in school houses. During the summer and on extraordinary occasions services were held in the groves.



Dorothy J. Clark

In the autumn of 1835, Thomas Ray and John St. Clare were appointed to the circuit at the conference held at Indianapolis. In May, 1836, Rev. Stevenson's father and family moved from Philadelphia and settled on what was known as the Packard farm. At that time preaching was held in the home of John Herrington Sr., at the home of Anthony Ostrander, or in the double log house of Hiram Smith which stood about a quarter of a mile northeast of the present church.

Brother Ray preached once in four weeks, and the other Sabbaths were occupied by local preachers of whom there were several in the circuit.

Growing Membership.

In 1836 Aaron Wood was presiding elder. John A. Brouse was stationed in Terre Haute, according to Rev. Stevenson, and preached "in the small brick church on the same ground on which Asbury now stands." During the last of August of that year, a camp meeting was held about 60 rods south of the present church. At that meeting there were quite a number of conversions and additions to the church membership. The country was filling up rapidly and it was thought best to start a subscription for a church building.

Rev. Stevenson gave an acre of ground with the privilege of getting the timbers for a frame from his land and one hundred dollars in money. Others gave corresponding amounts totaling eight hundred dollars.

The work was commenced that fall — the timbers were hewed near the church, the weatherboarding was sawed on a little saw mill on Honey Creek, the shingles were made by hand by a Mr. Popham who lived in a log house left on the camp ground.

Rev. Stevenson could not remember who the builder was, but he did recall many details of its construction. The church rested on blocks until the brick underpinning was put in some time later. The grounds were enclosed with a post and rail fence which was quite an innovation of the style then in use and was thought to be rather aristocratic. Being the first church building in the circuit it was quite an attraction.

There was but one door in the north end and but one aisle running from the door to the pulpit. The seats were unpainted and extended from the aisle to the wall on either side. There were two seats on either side of the pulpit which was an oblong box reached by five steps up from the floor. This brought the head of a tall minister dangerously close to the plank ceiling. The book board was high enough to reach the chest of an ordinary-sized man. At night there were tin sconces hung upon the window frames. The best tallow candles made in the neighborhood were used in these.

Candles Only Light.

On the pulpit there were tin candle sticks, one on either end of the book board which was about three feet long. It was not uncommon to see the preacher during the sermon wet his thumb and forefinger and pick the wick of the candle to get more

light on his sermon. The altar was enclosed with a balustrade.

When this church was first projected it was called the Spring Hill Church, but on the day of dedication it was named Mt. Pleasant. Brother Ray had been moved to another circuit but he returned to preach the dedicatory sermon on the second Sunday in May, 1837. His text was taken from Psalms :48-12-14. On this occasion the congregation filled the new church and the overflow listened to the services from the woods around it.

The first members of the formal organization of this society were: Elisha U. Brown and wife, John Herrington and wife, Sarah Herrington, Julie Herrington, Hiram Smith and wife, Wm. Stevenson and wife, Anthony Ostrander and wife, Samuel Robertson and wife, Wm. Woollen and wife, Mrs. Isbella Jackson and Mrs. Melvina Smith. The first interment in the church cemetery was Melvina Smith, daughter of Hiram and Sarah Smith.

Other firsts of the Mt. Pleasant Church were Samuel Robertson, the first steward, and Hiram Smith, the recording steward for the circuit.

First Revival.

The first revival that occurred in the church was in the winter of 1838-1839. Cornelius Swank and Thomas Bartlett were on the circuit then. They began the meetings and after two weeks left it in charge of three local preachers — Bro. Falkner, who lived where Brazil is now; Thomas Morrow, who lived in Putnamville, and Wm. Evans, who lived in Pleasant Garden. At the end of the revival the following names had been added to the church: John Messer and wife, Samuel Hyde and wife, Jefferson Davis and wife, Wm. Handly and wife, Wm. Stevenson Jr.,

Alfred Able, Jesse Robertson, Harriet Smith and Eliza M. Brown.

In 1840 Mt. Pleasant church was attached to the station in Terre Haute. Rev. John S. Bayless, the Terre Haute pastor, was to preach at Mt. Pleasant once in two weeks in the afternoon. This was not satisfactory to the membership, and at the next conference it was changed back to its previous status in the circuit.

According to Rev. Stevenson, some of the greatest men in Methodism had preached in Mt. Pleasant church. Such men as Matthew Simpson, Edward R. Ames, Allen Wily, L. W. Berry, Aaron Wood, Wm. Daily and others.

The first Sabbath school organized in the Mt. Pleasant neighborhood was in May of 1888. The superintendent was Miss Warren, who was employed as governess and private teacher for the children of the W. C. Linton's who owned and occupied the Thompson place. Equipment consisted of

a Methodist hymn book, a Bible and Long-Kings Question Book. The teachers were required to memorize the lesson and all the references connected with the questions. "My recollection is that the singing was not classical, but it was hearty. We had neither organ nor choir," wrote Rev. Stevenson.

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churches (original) WV

See Apr. 27
3 col out
photo 7,
44 Apr 23

HISTORY
OF
MT. PLEASANT
METHODIST CHURCH

Society Organized
1835

Church Building Dedicated
May, 1837

ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY YEARS OF
CHRISTIAN SERVICE

1975

Community Affairs File

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TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

MT. PLEASANT CHURCH HISTORY

Compiled By

Mrs. Blanche Hansing
Mrs. Louise Chapman

The Mt. Pleasant Methodist Episcopal Church, one of the oldest organizations of Methodism in this part of Indiana, was first organized in 1835. The society thus organized constituted a part of a circuit embracing all of Vigo, a part of Parke, Clay, and Putnam Counties.

At that time there was not a single frame building owned by the Methodists in this territory.

Preaching services and class meetings were held either in private homes or school houses during the winter months and during warmer seasons and on extraordinary occasions these services were held in the groves.

In the fall of 1835 Rev. Thomas Ray and Rev. John St. Clare were appointed to the circuit. At this time each minister preached every four weeks either at the home of Anthony Ostrander, John Herrington, Sr., or Hiram Smith. The Hiram Smith home was a double log house and stood about a quarter of a mile northeast of the present church. The intervening Sabbaths were occupied by one of the several local preachers in the circuit.

During the last of August, 1836, a stirring grove camp meeting was held about 60 rods southwest of the present church. Although we do not have definite historical information, we are told that Peter Cartwright either held or was instrumental in the success of this meeting. A large addition to the membership and along with the increased strength in number the desire for a new building grew rapidly. Accordingly the decision to start a subscription for a building met with hearty response. William Stevenson gave an acre of ground with the privilege of getting the timber for the frame from his land and \$100 in money. Others gave corresponding sums totaling \$800.

Construction of the church building began that fall. The timbers were hewed near the church. The weather-boarding was sawed at a little saw mill on Honey creek. The shingles were made by hand by a man named Papham who lived in a log cabin left on the camp ground. The building when finished, being the first in the circuit, was quite an attraction.

Inside of a very aristocratic post and rail fence, and on a block foundation, rested a small church, the home of an everlasting institution on Mt. Pleasant hill. Upon entering the building through a single door one would not have been disappointed for it had every feature typical of an early pioneer church. There was one aisle running from the door to the pulpit. On either side of this aisle unpainted seats extended to the wall. The pulpit, which was flanked by two seats on each side, had the appearance of being a rectangular box and was reached by five ascending steps. The altar was inclosed with a balustrade and on the rostrum was a "book-board", or pulpit desk, which was a three-foot plank resting on a single upright leg.

When used at night, there were tin sconces (candle holders) hung upon the window frames, and in each were inserted the best tallow candles made in the neighborhood. On the pulpit there were two candlesticks, one on either end of the book-board. It was not uncommon to see the preacher, during the sermon, wet his thumb and finger, and pinch the wick off, so as to obtain more light.

The church was dedicated the second Sunday in May, 1837, Rev. Thomas Ray in his dedicatory sermon used as his text, Psalms 48:12-14. Previous to this dedication the church organization had been known as Spring Hill, but during this service Rev. Ray named it Mt. Pleasant which it has since remained.

Twice during the century of its existence the church has been remodeled to meet the demands of changing conditions. The present building was finished in 1906, and dedicated to the same high and holy purpose as its predecessors of the wilderness days. Religious faith is immortal. It knows neither death nor decay. The faith that hewed the logs for a House of God on Mt. Pleasant hill has not been defeated by the passing of a hundred and forty changeful years. The vision that set men busy at a holy task over a century ago was not merely a phosphorescent gleam in the dark, but the steady glow of faith that looked across the years with purpose and confidence. Today the old church is redolent with fragrant memories, sacred with hallowed association - the house of our fathers - may it be the home of our children.

Some of the members of the first church society were:

Elisha U. Brown and Wife	Mrs. Isabella Jackson
John Herrington and Wife	Mrs. Melvina Smith
Sarah Herrington	Hiram Smith and Wife
Julia Herrington	(The first church steward)
Wm. Stevenson and Wife	Sam'l Robertson (First class
Anthony Ostrander and Wife	leader)
Wm. Woolen and Wife	

In December, 1838, the first revival was started by Rev. Cornelius Swank and Rev. Thomas Bartlett and after two weeks three local preachers, Bro. Falkner, who lived where Brazil now stands, Thos. Morrow from Putnamville, and Wm. Evans carried on quite successfully through the early part of 1839.

New members added to the church as a result of this revival were:

John Messers and Wife	Alfred Able
Sam'l Hyde and Wife	Jessie Robertson
Jefferson Davis and Wife	Harriette M. Smith
Wm. Handly and Wife	Eliza M. Brown
Wm. Stevenson Jr.	

"It is no disparagement to others to say that a more devoted, loyal class of Methodist Christians have never occupied seats in the old church."

The first Sabbath school, which was a large one from the beginning, was organized one year later in May, 1838. A Miss Warren, then governess and private teacher of the children of Mrs. W. C. Linton, (owner and occupant of the Col. Thompson place) was the first superintendent.

The Sunday School equipment consisted of a Bible, a Longkings question book, and a Methodist hymn book without music. Miss Warren insisted that the pupils memorize the entire lesson and all references.

The following families were represented:

E. U. Brown	Anthony Ostrander
W. C. Linton	Ishmal Pugh
Wm. Stevenson	Thos. Pugh
Hiram Smith	John Herrington
Allen Smith	Mrs. Cummings
Isabella Jackson	Thos. Conner
Chas. Jackson	

In 1840 Mt. Pleasant was attached to the station at Terre Haute. Rev. John S. Bayless, the pastor, was to preach at Mt. Pleasant every other Sunday afternoon. At the next quarterly conference the church was changed back to its original circuit at the request of the membership.

A few of the earliest pastors to serve Mt. Pleasant were:

David Dickerson	Elijah Long
Thos. Ray	Elijah Burrese
John St. Clare	Wm. C. Hersly
Cornelius Swank	James Williams
Thos. Bartlett	David Williamson
Esra Kemp	W. B. Davis
John R. Tansey	Joseph Asbury
Jacob Miller	Dan'l DeMote

Mt. Pleasant has been greatly honored by the presence and preaching of some of the greatest men in Methodism:

Matthew Simpson	L. W. Berry
Edward R. Ames	Aaron Wood
Allen Wiley	Wm. Daily

The oldest living member - Mrs. Bertha Hixon - 68 years.

Members for a half century or more:

Mrs. Grace Lowe	- 60 years
Mrs. Elva Smith	- 50 years
Mr. Christian Hansing	- 50 years

Acknowledgment is hereby made of the continuous friendship (since 1926) of our beloved retired minister, Rev. A. W. Shields.

This part of the History of Mt. Pleasant has been copied from the booklet written for the 120th Anniversary of Mt. Pleasant Methodist Church.

The Ladies Aid of Mt. Pleasant was organized April 25, 1899. Rev. A. M. Couchman, pastor, and the charter members were:

Mr. Belle Reynolds - Pres.	Miss Ida Jackson
Mrs. Elizabeth Hull - Vice Pres.	Miss Bertha Jackson
Miss Ida Woolen - Secretary	Mrs. Mollie Tracy
Mrs. Emeline Pugh - Treasurer	Mrs. Pauline Hixon
Mrs. Mary Pugh	Mrs. Gorman
Mrs. Carrie Rolls	Mrs. Sarah Redford
Mrs. Nettie Swartz	Mrs. Fanny Simmons
Mrs. Pricilla Swartz	Mrs. Martha Halstead
Mrs. Martha Wollen	Mrs. Lavina Pierce
	Miss Laura Rusk

Names in Mt. Pleasant Class Book - 1876 to 1884:

M. S. Heavenridge - Pastor
Robert Jackson - Teacher

Names of persons in old class:

John Moore	Mary Wiser
Nicholas Mulligan	Jas. Stanley
D. A. Jackson	Heather Hartley
Harvey Jackson	Hattie Hartley
R. W. Thompson	Eliss Hull
Mrs. H. Thompson	Olive Pugh
Mary Robertson	Fred Splady
Sarah Smith	Mary Alexander
Charles Smith	Nancy Brady
Ellen Stevenson	Milton Jackson
Isabelle Stevenson	Amanda Bower
S. P. Swartz	Lousia Smith
Chloe Jackson	Mary E. Robb

Names of persons in old class (continued):

Frances Alaranter	Jacob Hosier
Frank Redford	Joannah Alexander
G. M. Redford	Minnie Alexander
G. M. Hull	L. B. Smith
Lucy Woolen	James Redford
Laura Pugh	Annie Redford
Elizabeth Redford	Rosa Redford
Lucina Irvin	Edward Redford
Albert Woolen	L. B. Franklin
Susan Hosier	Mel Franklin
Priscella Swartz	Mary E. Batman

Mt. Pleasant Aid Society Members - Jan. 1914:

Mrs. Pauline Hixon	Mrs. Fagin
Miss Maude Hansing	Mrs. Morge
Miss Goldie Armacost	Mrs. Frank Smith
Mrs. Grace Lowe	Mrs. Harriet Murphy
Miss Anna Myers	Mrs. Ferree
Miss Kate Coffman	Mrs. Daugherty
Mrs. Ola Howard	Mrs. Emaline Pugh
Mrs. James Collins	Mrs. Belle Reynolds
Mrs. Maude Nattkemper	Mrs. Molly Coffman
Mrs. Fred Pierce	Mrs. Mary Pugh
Mrs. Cullen	Miss Ida Jackson
Miss Grace Pugh	Mrs. Simmon Swartz
Miss Naomi Murphy	Mrs. Nettie Swartz
Mrs. Ina Kesler	

The Victory Class was organized in the Summer of 1919:

Miss Belle McCollum - Leader
Mrs. Ruth Price - Teacher

Names of some of the first members:

Goldie Armacost	Ernest Reupke
Grace Higgins	Joseph Murphy
Blanche Redford	Naomi Smith
Ralph Redford	Ernest Smith
Jennie Murphy	Leonard Dailey
Walter Dawson	Chris Hansing
Harold Swanagan	Robert Hansing
Myrtle Brazzel	Maude Hansing
Goldie Criss	Marion Hansing
Erwin Schmidt	Janie Criss
Homer Woodsmall	Myrtle Price
Henry Young	Bertha Price
	Mabel Brazzel

Persons joined in 1921-22:

Earl Jackson
Kathrine Cramer
Beulah Overton
Mary Ferree
Lenard Whiteneck
Bill Schmidt
Lois Miller

Robert Ferree
Fritz Link
Edna Link
Carl Hauck
Ray Cramer
Charlie Woolever
Richard Beckwith

A Missionary Society was organized in the late 20's. They met at homes of an evening. Have no record, but some of the members were:

Mrs. Reupke
Mrs. Kesler
Mrs. Maude Nattkemper
Mrs. Ollie Pounds
Miss Marion Hansing
Miss Maude Hansing

Mrs. Grace Lowe
Mrs. Blanche Hansing
Mrs. Gilchrist
Ruth Reupke
Thelma Nattkemper
Marie Nattkemper

Have no records to go by, but the mens class was formed in the early 20's with Mr. Armacost as the teacher. It was organized in the early 1930's with Mr. Fortner as the teacher. Other teachers were:

Harvey Kesler
Frank Murphy

Some of the members of the class were:

Al Armacost
Frank Murphy
Harvey Kesler
Chris Hansing
James Trimmer
Gilbert Chapman
Dave Heron
Frank Miller
Mr. Wilson
Robert Hansing
Henry Hansing
Dayton Lawson
Charles Sheperd
Ralph Pound
Glen Ray
Walter Dawson

Mr. Dawson
Mr. Nolte
Joe Rost
Floyd Creasy
Louis Godschalk
Joe Lowe
John Martin
Densford Martin
Amil Dragon
Wayne Gosnell
Rev. A. W. Shields
Warren Mayes
Chester Mickey
Joe Rost
Loren Krantz
Glen Krantz
Darrell Criss

The Ladies Aid Society name was changed to Women's Society of
Christian Service on the 5th of September, 1940.

Rev. Woolridge - Pastor

Names of members on roll at that time were:

May Austermiller	Elva Smith
Jennie Armacost	Edith Woolridge
Clarrissa Arnold	Helen Ruepke
Della Arnold	Zoe M. Kibler
Pearl F. Criss	Emma Resse
Louise Chapman	Osa Kibler
Mary Coffman	J. M. Wilkenson
Lula Evans	Jennie Sidenbender
Bess Heron	Maxine Beckwith
Ethel Hochsteller	Ruth Gosnell
Jessie Harkness	Mary Bauer
Thelma Link	Laura Sutliff
Edna Lockman	Ethel Miller
Emma Link	Wilma Brown
Grace Lowe	Stella Harley
Irma Lowe	Grace Hancock
Reva Murphy	Nina Kautz
Nettie McCabe	Mary Dawson
Harriet Murphy	Lida Higgins
Mattie Miller	Jane Ray
Beulah Martin	Bertha Lockman
Esther Neese	Lucy Greiner
Thelma Nattkemper	Doris Overton
Margaret Schalburg	Nettie Rogers
Ollie Pound	Marie Zenor
Martha Reupke	Nell Beckwith
Edna Spears	Nettie Dawson
Anna Rost	Clara Ethel Deen
Lois Sankey	

The Women's Society of Christian Service members of the year 1950:

Rev. Clifford M. Bless - Pastor

Mae Austermiller	Bess Heron
Clarissa Arnold	Mary Krantz
Maxine Beckwild	Lorene Lawson
Louise Chapman	Rosa Leminger
Lula Evans	Grace Little
Maude Fench	Grace Lowe
Cora Genner	Irma Lowe
Mildred Garrigus	Beulah Martin
Gertrude Godschalk	Pearl Martin
Ruth Gosnell	Elsie Mickey
Dorothy Green	Ethel Miller
Grace Hancock	Mattie Miller
Blanche Hansing	Flossie Moody
Agnes Harburger	Thelma Nattkemper

The Women's Society of Christian Service (continued):

Esther Nees	Jennie Sidenbender
Stella Nolte	Margaret Schalburg
Ada Price	Elva Smith
Dorothy Price	Hazel Trimmer
Emma Price	Mary Lou Trimmer
Thelma Price	Flora Vanderbilt
Katherine Pearce	Nell Wilkenson
Dorothy Peterson	Blanche Withron
Anna Rost	Clara Mae Bless
Laura Rost	Lois Sankey
Anna Sankey	

The Builders Class was organized in the month of November, 1951.

Rev. Clifford M. Bless

The charter members of the Builders Class were:

Dayton & Lorene Lawson
Charles & Virginia Miles
Paul & Mary Collier
Loren & Mary Krantz
Joe & Helen Bowen
Bob & Jeanette Clements
Gordon & Ruth Criss
Marjorie Moseman

Other members added:

Irene & Amil Dragon	Glen & Phyllis Krantz
Dick & Maxine Beckwith	Howard & Mary Ellen Jenkins
Alfred & Rose Griffy	Robert & Ruth Lash
Wilbur & Mable Ludwig	Lorne & Alberta Hunter
Edward & Carol Shepherd	Delores Patterson
James & Dorothy Price	Ralph & Phyllis Hawkins
John & Elizabeth Lynch	John Jr., & Marcella Unger
Mr. & Mrs. Rex Spangler	Howard & Mary Catherine White
Charles & Anna Mae Pence	Wayne & Mazie Roberts
	Mr. & Mrs. Homer Staggs

New members from 1959:

Arthur & Mary Bettenbrock	James & Carol Slusser
Chester & Wanda Richardson	William & Mary Ann Couchman
Coy & Marian Orman	Ben & Helen Nash
Edward Myers	Mr. & Mrs. Joe Reynolds
Alma & Carl Ryan	Norman & Sharon Pigg

The New Seekers Class was organized in October, 1973.

Rev. A. W. Stoneburner - Pastor
Helen Nash - Teacher

The New Seekers Class members are:

Greg & Lynn Criss
Rick & Leann Braden
Dale & Carol Griffy
Gary & Patty Griffy

Richard K. & Jennifer Jenkins
Nathan Miles
Ted & Ronda Hamelmann
John & Debbie Criss
John & Nancy Eversole

When Youngstown (Bethel) left us in 1958 we needed a parsonage. Howard & Mary Catherine White gave the church one acre of ground on corner of farm.

The building of the parsonage was started in April 19, 1958. It was finished and paid for and dedicated on October 23, 1960. Finished basement and Rev. Lorne Maxwell and wife moved in June, 1958. Also, the members of Mt. Pleasant built a house next door to the new parsonage and sold it when completed.

Mrs. Grace Lowe resigned from communion steward in October, 1962, due to poor health. She served nearly 60 years. Alberta Hunter accepted to serve as communion steward.

Donated stained glass windows in 1906 in memory of Simon P. Swartz and wife Priscilla; John L. Redford & wife Sarah M., Elvin Brown & Phebra G. Brown; Joshua M. Hull & wife Mary E.; John Jackson & wife Isabelle, Pierce - Pugh - Smith - Stevenson. Rev. E. L. Hutchins, Rev. W. R. Halstead and Nettie G. Swartz donated the three windows in the front of the church. John, James Caleb Harvey & Robert Jackson also donated.

The paper weight with the picture of the old church and E. L. Hutchens picture were made in 1906 and sold for \$1.00 each to help on expense of remodeling church. The oval picture of the Old Church was painted by Charley Klamm in 1906 or 1907.

The picture plates were gotten by the Builders Class in June, 1953, to be sold for \$3.00 each to help pay on redecorating the basement.

In 1967 the church purchased five acres with a two-story house from Richard & Alberta Hunter. This was located north and just across the street from the church. On September 3, 1967, ground was broken and the church was moved during September and October. Mr. Elmer Buchta, a professional mover, moved the church, turned it around to face the south, and set it on its new foundation. Nothing was broken nor did one piece of old plaster fall during the move. A contractor did the remodeling, siding, and roofing work on the church. The members did the painting, paneling, and inside work. The old pews were refinished at a cost of \$50.00 each. The old alter rail was refinished to match the pews. Sixteen feet was added to the north end of the church, and rest rooms were installed for the first time. Red carpeting was installed on the entire first floor. The entire bill for moving, remodeling, and furnishing was approximately \$55,000. Church services were held each Sunday during the moving and remodeling. Rev. John Thrasher was pastor at this time.

The Womans Society of Christian Service was divided into two circles with one president over both circles and then officers elected for each circle.

The first president over both circles was Marian Orman.

Alma Ryan - President
Mary Ann Couchman - Vice President
Pearl Martin - Treasurer

The daytime circle was named The Willing Workers Circle. Members at present time are:

Betty Kuykendall	Ethel Miller
Mary Ann Couchman	Pearl Martin
Alma Ryan	Lorene Lawson
Grace Little	Jane Ray
Alberta Newell	Violet Lindsey

The Willing Workers Circle (continued);

Gladys Williams
Hazel Trimmer

Anna Rost
Mary Bettenbrock
Gertrude Godschalk

The second elected president is Alma Ryan over both circles.

New officers are:

Betty Kuykendall - President
Mary Ann Couchman - Vice President
Alberta Newell - Secretary & Treasurer

The Katherine Pearce Circle was organized October 12, 1971, meeting
at night.

Beatrice Richey - President
Marian Orman - Secretary
Sarah Richards - Treasurer

Second year:

Mary Catherine White - President
Virginia Miles - Secretary
Kathleen Stoneburner - Treasurer

Members to date:

Ruth Criss
Kathleen Stoneburner
Sharon Pigg
Virginia Miles
Mable Ludwig
Nellie Critchlow
Helen Nash
Mary Catherine White
Joyce Pettyjohn

Mildred Jansen
Maxine Griffy
Katherine Pearce
Marian Orman
Louise Chapman
Janice Harris
Blanche Hansing
Mazie Roberts
Mildred Hoopengartner
Jennifer Jenkins

New officers for 1975 are as follows:

Joyce Pettyjohn - President
Louise Chapman - Secretary
Jennifer Jenkins - Treasurer

PASTORS OF FORMER YEARS

Green Castle District Circuit that included Mr. Pleasant - 6 churches:

1857-1858 - E. Hamilton

1861 - Rev. J. E. Brant

1862 - Rev. J. F. McCann

1863-1864-1865 - G. W. Bower

1866 - J. W. Walls

Changed to Vincennes District; Mt. Pleasant on Bloomington Circuit:

1867 - No pastor listed

1868 - Rev. John M. Green

1869 - Rev. H. H. Puett

1870-1871 - Rev. H. P. Armstrong

1872-1873 - Rev. L. E. Carson

Changed to Riley, Lockport, and Mt. Pleasant:

1874 - Rev. L. E. Carson

1875 - Rev. John Forsey

1876-1877-1878 - M. S. Heavenridge

1879 - Rev. William A. Davis

1880 - Joseph W. Asbury

1881 - Rev. John W. Culver

Records taken from Conference minutes saved by Rev. A. W. Shields.

Prairie-ton Circuit

Prairie-ton, Grove, Bethel, Hamilton and Mt. Pleasant:

Pastors who served Mt. Pleasant.

Prairie-ton, Grove, Bethel, Hamilton, and Mt. Pleasant:

1884-1885 - Rev. Wm. T. Davis

1885-1888 - Rev. Hickman N. King

1888-1890 - Rev. James M. Watson

1890-1893 - Rev. James D. Crane

1893-1896 - Rev. Haydon H. Allen
 1896-1898 - Rev. Sam F. Anderson
 1898-1903 - Rev. A. M. Couchman
 1903-1905 - Rev. Dawson W. Denny

Rev. Haydon H. Allen passed away in January, 1935; Rev. Samuel F. Anderson, October, 1909; Rev. A. M. Couchman, August 16, 1955; and Rev. Dawson W. Denny, May, 1936.

1905-1907 - Rev. E. L. Hutchins - still living
 in 1967
 1907-1908 - Rev. Ray Rapdate - died February, 1941
 1908-1909 - Rev. B. T. Snyder
 1909-1913 - W. A. Walker - 3 yrs. 8 mos. - died
 May, 1913.
 1913-1914 - Rev. Leslie Lyn Johnson - 1 yr. 4 mos. -
 died October, 1952
 1914-1915 - Rev. Lucien B. Johnson - died 1918

Changed to Riley charge

Riley & Mt. Pleasant:

1915-1919 - Rev. J. H. Furry - died Jan. 30, 1953
 Rode bicycle only on his circuit.
 1919-1920 - Rev. Oscar Polhemas - died Oct. 6, 1943
 1920-1922 - Rev. H. J. Gernhart - died August, 1938
 1922-1923 - Rev. Walter Clark
 1923-1924 - Rev. Charles S. Whitted - died in Oct., 1936
 1924-1926 - Rev. James W. Troubridge - died Sept. 1963
 1926-1930 - Rev. W. Shields - died October 14, 1956
 1930-1933 - Rev. Charles F. Mahler - died March 17, 19
 1933-1935 - Rev. James Harrell
 1935-1940 - Rev. Harly W. Woolridge
 1940-1941 - Rev. E. Grimes - died November 23, 1953
 1941-1942 - Rev. Lester Pierce
 1942-1945 - Rev. Ernest Bailey - 3 yrs. 6 mos.
 1945-1947 - Rev. Vollie Suddarth - 2 yrs. 9 mos.
 1947-1949 - Rev. H. McGown - 1 yr. 7 mos.
 1949-1952 - Rev. Clifford Bless
 1952-1957 - Rev. Walter Williams

Charge joined Prairieton and Youngstown; two months without a minister.

1957-1961 - Rev. Loren Maxwell
 1961- - Bob Chance, Asst. Minister, 1 yr. in 1957

Youngstown left in June, 1958.
 Still with Prairieton

1961-1962 - Rev. Sidney Stine
 1962-1969 - Rev. John Thrasher

Pastors of Former Years
(continued)

1969 Rev. Ival Lane
1970 Left to work at Orphans Home
1970-1971 - Rev. Robert Rogers
1971-1975 - Rev. A. W. Stoneburner



*Mt. Pleasant
United Methodist Church
Sesquicentennial History
1835 - 1985*

Community Affairs File

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FOREWORD

Throughout the 150 years of Mt. Pleasant's history many people have contributed to its growth and continuity. We regret that we could not list them all. It is with gratitude that we dedicate this book to all those who have served in the past and present congregations.

The Sesquicentennial Committee

Front Cover: Present Church

Back Cover: 1906-1967

The Mt. Pleasant Methodist Episcopal Church, one of the oldest organizations of Methodism in this part of Indiana, was first organized in 1835. The society thus organized constituted a part of a circuit embracing all of Vigo, a part of Parke, Clay, and Putnam Counties. At that time there was not a single frame building owned by the Methodists in this territory.

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During the last of August, 1836, a stirring grove camp meeting was held about 60 rods southwest of the present church. Although we do not have definite historical information, we are told that Peter Cartwright either held or was instrumental in the success of this meeting. A large addition to the membership of the society resulted from this meeting and along with the increased strength in number the desire for a new building grew rapidly. Accordingly the decision to start a subscription for a building met with hearty response. William Stevenson gave an acre

of ground with the privilege of getting the timber for the frame from his land and \$100 in money. Others gave corresponding sums totaling \$800. Construction of the church building began that fall. The timbers were hewed near the church. The weather-boarding was sawed at a little saw mill on Honey Creek. The shingles were made by hand by a man named Popham who lived in a log cabin left on the camp ground. The building when finished, being the first in the circuit, was quite an attraction.

Inside of a very aristocratic post and rail fence, and on a block foundation, rested a small church, the home of an everlasting institution on Mt. Pleasant hill. Upon entering the building through a single door one would not have been disappointed for it had every feature typical of an early pioneer church. There was one aisle running from the door to the pulpit. On either side of this aisle unpainted seats extended to the wall. The pulpit, which was flanked by two seats on each side, had the appearance of being a rectangular box and was reached by five ascending steps. The altar was enclosed with a balustrade and on the rostrum was a "book-board", or pulpit desk, which was a three-foot plank resting on a single upright leg.

When used at night, there were tin sconces (candle holders) hung upon the window frames, and in each were inserted the best tallow candles made in the neighborhood. On the pulpit there were two candlesticks, one on either end of the book-board. It was not uncommon to see the preacher, during

the sermon, wet his thumb and finger, and pinch the wick off, so as to obtain more light.

The church was dedicated the second Sunday in May, 1837, Rev. Thomas Ray in his dedicatory sermon used as his text, Psalms 48:12-14. Previous to this dedication the church organization had been known as Spring Hill but during this service Rev. Ray named it Mt. Pleasant which it has since remained.

Some of the members of the first church society were:

Elisha U. Brown and Wife	Mrs. Isabella Jackson
John Herrington and Wife	Mrs. Melvina Smith
Sarah Herrington	Hiram Smith and Wife
Julia Herrington	(The first church
Wm. Stevenson and Wife	steward)
Anthony Ostrander & Wife	Samuel Robertson (First
Wm. Woolen and Wife	class leader)

The first Sabbath School, which was a large one from the beginning, was organized in May 1838. A Miss Warren, then governess and private teacher of the children of Mrs. W.C. Linton (owner and occupant of the Col. Thompson place) was the first superintendent. The Sabbath School equipment consisted of a Bible, a Longkings question book, and a Methodist hymn book (without music). Miss Warren insisted that the pupils memorize the entire lesson and all references.

In December 1838 the first revival was started by Rev. Cornelius Swank and Rev. Thomas Bartlett and after two weeks three local preachers, Bro.

Falkner who lived where Brazil now stands, Thomas Morrow from Putnamville, and William Evans carried out the work quite successfully through the early part of 1839. It has been said, with no disparagement to others, that a more devoted and loyal class of Methodist Christians have ever occupied seats in the old church.

In 1840 Mt. Pleasant was attached to the station at Terre Haute. Rev. John S. Bayless, the pastor, was to preach at Mt. Pleasant every other Sunday afternoon. At the next quarterly conference the church was changed back to its original circuit at the request of the membership.

A few of the earliest pastors to serve Mt. Pleasant were:

David Dickerson

Thomas Ray

John St. Clare

Cornelius Swank

Thomas Bartlett

Esra Kemp

John R. Tansey

Daniel DeMote

Elijah Long

Elijah Burrese

Wm. C. Hersly

James Williams

David Williamson

W.B. Davis

Jacob Miller

Joseph Asbury

Mt. Pleasant has been greatly honored by the presence and preaching of some of the greatest men in Methodism:

Matthew Simpson

Edward R. Ames

Allen Wiley

L.W. Berry

Aaron Wood

Wm. Daily

Three times during the 150 years of existence, the church has been remodeled. In the second remodeling the structure had two front doors, with pews on either side of a divider. The men and women sat on different sides. It was heated with four stoves, two on either side midway the church. The raised pulpit was bordered with mourners benches which were upholstered in a checkered material. About this time the church was lighted by kerosene lamps with reflectors, one hanging on each window frame.

The third restructuring in 1906 found the building with a single auditorium, seats on both sides with an altar stretching across the entire front. There were folding doors on the right with added room for Sunday School classes. Stained glass windows were installed in memory of Hiram and Sarah Smith, Simon and Priscilla Swartz, John L. and Sarah M. Redford, Elvin J. and Phebe G. Brown, Joshua M. and Mary E. Hull, John and Isabella Jackson, Fred Pierce Family, the Pugh and Stevenson families. The three windows in front of the building were donated by Nettie Swartz's Sunday School class, Rev. W.R. Halstead, and the 1906 minister Rev. E. L. Hutchins. Other windows note John, James, Caleb Harvey, and Robert Jackson. Soon after the 1906 remodeling, a "Little Wonder" lighting system was installed. This was a pressurized gasoline system with tubing to all ceiling fixtures, each having white glass globes. Each manteled fixture was lit from a flaming torch and the auditorium came aglow. It is a 'little wonder' that the building

survived, but it was quite an improvement and was used until the early 1920's when electricity was available. During 1937-38 a basement was dug by hand from under the main auditorium to accommodate additional space for Sunday School and other activities. This was truly a labor of love done entirely by members of the church and community with much sweat and long hours of donated labor.

In 1958 a parsonage was needed. Howard and Mary Catherine White gave the church an acre of ground and the parsonage was started on April 19. It was finished, paid for, and dedicated on October 23, 1960. Also, the members of Mt. Pleasant built a house next door to the new parsonage and sold it when completed. Rev. Loren Maxwell was pastor during this time and he and his family occupied the first parsonage.

In 1967 the church purchased five acres to the north and across the road. On September 3, 1967 ground was broken and the church building was moved to its new site during September and October. A professional mover, Elmer Buchta, moved the building, turning it around to face the south and set it on its new foundation. It was noted that nothing was broken nor did one piece of old plaster fall during the move. A contractor did the remodeling, siding and roofwork on the building. The members did the painting, paneling and inside work. The old pews were refinished at a cost of \$50 each. The old altar rail was refinished to match the pews. Sixteen feet of space was added to the north end of the church and rest rooms were installed for the first time. Red

carpeting was installed on the entire first floor. The entire bill for moving, remodeling and furnishing was approximately \$55,000. During the moving and remodeling, services were held in the church each Sunday. Rev. John Thrasher was pastor during this time.

The two story house that set east of the present church site was given away for removing it from the grounds in order to build a parsonage at that location. The new parsonage was started in July 1977. The pastor, Rev. Arthur Collins, with his family, moved into it in July 1978. It was dedicated October 15 of that year. The final mortgage payment was made May 9, 1983. A ceremony was held on the parsonage lawn the following September 1983 and the mortgage was burned. The present pastor, Rev. James White, officiated.

In the fall of 1982 and spring of 1983, a concrete parking area, handicap ramp, new steps and railing were added to the church. Formal ground breaking for a new addition to the church building was held in June 1985. This will include four large Sunday School rooms west of the fellowship hall and the framing of additional sanctuary space to be completed at a later date. Office space and additional restrooms are also included in these plans.

Within recent years Mt. Pleasant has sponsored three successful Lay Witness Mission programs and also three Marriage Enrichment weekends. In September 1984 Rev. White initiated a second morning worship service. There is a present membership of 270 and the average attendance has grown to 180. Sunday School is held between the two worship services each Sunday.

CLASSES AND ORGANIZATIONS

The first Ladies Aid Society of Mt. Pleasant was organized April 25, 1899 with 20 charter members. A Missionary Society was organized in the late 1920's. They met at homes in the evening. The Ladies Aid Society's name was changed to Women's Society of Christian Service on September 5, 1940 while Rev. Wooldridge was pastor.

A men's class was formed in the early 1920's and reorganized in the early 30's. In later years there was a very active Methodist Men's group in the church.

In November 1951 a couples class known as the Builders Class was begun. From it other Sunday School Classes have evolved. The New Seekers Class was formed in October 1973 and a young adult class was begun in 1984. It is known as Workers for Christ. Other current classes are: The Sixty Plus Class, Junior-Senior High School Class, Middler Class, Primary Class, Beginners Class and Nurery Class.

At the present time there are several ministries associated with our church. Spiritual programs include two Women's Sharing Groups, Men's Prayer Breakfast, Trinity Bible Studies, United Methodist Youth Fellowship, Christian Youth Crusaders, and the Katherine Pearce Circle, a women's missionary group.

Other programs serving the community are Mom's Day Out, Vacation Bible School, New Dimensions/Aerobics (fitness and weight control class). Also

Mt. Pleasant is the site of a Nursery School operated by a licensed teacher.

The following memories from the past are certainly not all inclusive but are worth mentioning as history:

Two ladies, Belle McCollum and Ella Reupke, will long be remembered for serving as church pianists for nearly twenty years. Both helped direct children programs for all occasions. Blanche Hansing taught the Ladies Class in Sunday School for many years. Grace Lowe was Communion Steward for 60 years. Katherine Pearce taught Primary Class in Sunday School for over twenty-five years. Many persons will recall the Christian influence she had on their lives. She was loved by all those who knew her.

It is also recalled that during the 1920's the church had an orchestra which played for all Sunday School services. It was composed of violins, saxophones, trumpet, trombone and piano.

From the early 1940's to the mid 1950's Mt. Pleasant sponsored Troop 37 of the Boy Scouts of America. They served with distinction in the aftermath of a tornado which came within 300 yards of the church building in 1950.

The Mt. Pleasant Congregation has been blessed with having five men enter into full time Christian service, four of them having been ordained Methodist ministers. All of them have at some time been guest speakers in the church. They are the Reverends William Stevenson, H.C. Carpenter, Charles Shepard, Michael Roberts and Mr. Randy Richardson. The influence of our church lives on through these dedicated men.

PASTORS SINCE 1857

Greencastle District Circuit (six churches)

Rev. E. Hamilton.....	1857
Rev. J.E. Brant.....	1861
Rev. J.F. McCann.....	1862
Rev. G.W. Bower.....	1863
Rev. J.W. Walls.....	1866

Changed to Vincennes District on the Bloomington Circuit

No Pastor listed.....	1867
Rev. John M. Green.....	1868
Rev. H.H. Puett.....	1869
Rev. H.P. Armstrong.....	1870
Rev. L.E. Carson.....	1874

Changed to Riley, Lockport and Mt. Pleasant Charge

Rev. L.E. Carson.....	1874
Rev. John Forsey.....	1875
Rev. M.S. Heavenridge.....	1876
Rev. William A. Davis.....	1879
Rev. Joseph W. Asbury.....	1880
Rev. John W. Culver.....	1881

Prairieton Circuit (Prairieton, Sugar Grove, Hamilton, Mt. Pleasant)

Rev. William T. Davis.....	1884
Rev. Hickman N. King.....	1885
Rev. James M. Watson.....	1888
Rev. James D. Crane.....	1890
Rev. Haydon H. Allen.....	1893
Rev. Sam F. Anderson.....	1896
Rev. A.M. Couchman.....	1898

Rev. Dawson W. Denny.....	1903
Rev. Ezra L. Hutchins.....	1906
Rev. Ray Rapdate.....	1907
Rev. B.T. Snyder.....	1908
Rev. W.A. Walker.....	1909
Rev. Leslie L. Johnson.....	1913
Rev. Lucien B. Johnson.....	1914

Changed to Riley Charge

Rev. J.H. Furry.....	1915
Rev. Oscar Polhemas.....	1919
Rev. H.J. Gernhart.....	1920
Rev. Walter M. Clark.....	1922
Rev. Charles S. Whitted.....	1923
Rev. James W. Trowbridge.....	1924
Rev. Albert W. Shields.....	1926
Rev. Charles F. Mahler.....	1930
Rev. James Harrell.....	1933
Rev. Harley W. Wooldridge.....	1935
Rev. E. Grimes.....	1940
Rev. Lester Pierce.....	1941
Rev. Ernest Bailey.....	1942
Rev. Vollie Suddarth.....	1945
Rev. H. McGown.....	1947
Rev. Clifford Bless.....	1949
Rev. Walter Williams.....	1952

Charge Changed to Prairieton, Youngstown,
Mt. Pleasant

Rev. Loren Maxwell.....	1957
Rev. Robert Chance (Asst. Pastor).....	1961

Youngstown left charge June 1958

Rev. Sidney Stine.....1961
Rev. John Thrasher.....1962
Rev. Ival Lane.....1969
Rev. Robert Rogers.....1970
Rev. A.W. Stoneburner.....1971
Rev. Reed Stewart.....1975
Rev. John Fischer.....1976
Rev. Arthur Collins.....1978
Rev. John Chasteen (interim)....1/80 to 6/80

Twopoint Charge - Mt. Pleasant/Christ Church of W.T.H.

Rev. James White.....1980

In June 1984, under the direction of Rev. James White, Mt. Pleasant became a Full Station Charge and remains so today.

EPILOGUE

The following words were written in 1935 by Rev. W.M. Clark, husband of Helen Lowe, on the occasion of the 100th Anniversary of Mt. Pleasant Church. They are as appropriate today as then and we are pleased to include them here.

The church buildings have all been dedicated to the same high and holy purpose as their predecessors of the wilderness day. Religious faith is immortal. It knows neither death nor decay. The faith that hewed the logs for a house of God on Mt. Pleasant Hill has not been defeated by the passing of one hundred years. The vision that set men busy at a holy task over a century ago was not merely a phosphorescent gleam in the dark, but the steady glow of faith that looked across the years with purpose and confidence. Today the church is redolent with fragrant memories, sacred with hallowed associations...the House of our Fathers...may it be the House of our Children.

